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Near East & South Asia

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REGIONAL

'Egyptian Personality' Advises Direct Contacts With Iran

45000106 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
18 Jun 88 p 6

[Text] A prominent Egyptian personality has advised President Husni Mubarak to undertake "a new political role" regarding the Iraq-Iran war in consultation and coordination with some Arab and international parties concerned with this issue. According to this personality, the "new role" that Egypt can undertake is making direct contacts, secretly or openly, with the Iranian leadership or high-level Iranian officials, and talking with them about "ways of ending the Iraq-Iran war." This personality mentioned that the Egyptian leadership must prepare "a comprehensive plan" on how to stop this war and discuss it with Arab and international parties before submitting it to Iranian officials.

Arab Lawyers Barred From Egypt, 'Egypt's Revolution' Case

45000109 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
12 Jun 88 p 7

[Text] From now on, and until further notice, no Arab lawyer shall enter Egypt whatever the reason. Strict instructions were issued to Cairo International Airport and all Egyptian ports and means of entry on this subject. The cause is an extreme anxiety that some Arab lawyers will slip into Egypt to participate in the defense of Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir when the hearing of the "Egypt's Revolution" case begins. This is true especially after the Federation of Arab Lawyers in Tunisia issued a decision considering the "Egypt's Revolution" case to be more an Arab than an Egyptian case and urging Arab lawyers to participate in defending the accused.

Two Egyptian Scholars Contribute Material to Israeli Radio

45000110 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
4 Jun 88 p 10

[Text] After the Palestinian uprising had reached its peak, and after the Zionist enemy had gone further than it had ever gone before in assassinating Palestinian leader Abu Jihad—after all this, Camp David historian Dr 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan signed an agreement with the Israeli enemy's radio to broadcast the editorials that he publishes in the Egyptian magazine UKTUBAR, which is published by Dar al-Ma'arif, or in the newspaper AL-WAFD, which is published by the Wafd Party, on condition that the editorials are broadcast on the day of publication.

Dr Ramadan wrote the first editorial that was broadcast specifically for the beginning of the implementation of this agreement. It was a violent attack on "Egypt's Revolution," and he wrote it on commission from Israeli radio, then published it in UKTUBAR magazine.

During Ramadan the Egyptian poet Ahmad Marsa Yunis had prepared a Ramadan riddle for Israeli radio entitled "A Ramadan Gift."

Bank Official Discusses Arab Investment Activities Abroad

44040248 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
3 Jun 88 p 57

[Interview With Shafiq al-Akhras, chairman of board of directors of Saudi Bank in Paris; date, place not given]

[Text] Shafiq al-Akhras, chairman of the board of directors of the Saudi Bank in Paris, has experience with the banking business inside and outside the Arab homeland. He has been one of the pioneers of this business and one of its most established figures. AL-HAWADITH, which has periodically consulted Shafiq al-Akhras on Arab and international banking and financial developments, asked him the following questions to be published in its annual banking supplement:

[Question] The international financing world is undergoing rapid changes (mergers of world financial markets, the endorsement of all kinds of exchangeable securities, the elimination of measures restricting the movement of monies and investments). Do you think that the Arab banks have adjusted to the new era of financing?

[Answer] The Arab banks have adjusted by varying degrees, depending on their awareness of the importance of the said changes, on their ability to change and on the prerequisites available to them. These prerequisites are:

The availability of enough capital to enable these banks to withstand the competition of foreign banks and to give them the opportunity to diversify their activities and to modernize their procedures and the services they offer their clients.

The availability of highly-experienced and qualified human elements to undertake such operations.

The potential of banks to expand their activities locally and internationally, especially their potential to permeate the markets in which they exist.

The banks' ability to restructure themselves and to adopt a new strategy to finance their activities in a manner compatible with the new developments that have occurred in the financial and money markets and in these markets' methods of dealing and their ability to offer the new services and instruments dictated by these developments, especially in the capital market transactions. [Question] The latest conference of the Union of Arab Banks (held in London) expressed obvious concern over the future of Arab investments abroad. Do you share the union's concern and what, in your opinion, are the main risks faced by Arab investment abroad?

[Answer] Naturally we should always be careful and should take precautions for all possibilities. This is a general rule that applies to all investments. As for the risks especially facing Arab investment abroad, they are general risks that encompass all investments. Of these risks, we will note the following in particular:

The type of investment itself and the assessment, study and followup made on such investment.

The circumstances surrounding the investment site.

The risks that are particular to the investment process and to its fluctuations.

The risks of economic developments, without excluding the political risks. These risks depend on the countries in which monies are invested.

[Question] Do you think that the Arab banks operating abroad enjoy banking performance levels that qualify them to manage Arab investments, especially official investments, abroad?

[Answer] The capability of Arab banks operating abroad to manage Arab investments depends primarily on:

Their ability to attract highly-qualified elements that are experienced in economic and financial affairs and in market developments.

Their ability to equip themselves with modern technology in order to keep up pace with the world markets and to predict future developments.

Their ability to keep up pace with the rapid developments in the various types, forms and methods of investment.

We believe that these capabilities are available to the banks that possess financial and technical resources. But they are not available to a large part of the Arab banks operating abroad.

[Question] Do you support some people's call for repatriating the Arab assets invested abroad or do you recommend diversifying the investment markets?

[Answer] It is desirable to repatriate the Arab assets or, at least, a part of the Arab assets invested abroad. But such repatriation depends more on the host countries than on the investor himself. This means creating the proper conditions to attract and repatriate these assets, providing the technological instruments needed to invest and manage the assets soundly and creating and embracing successful economic projects in which to invest these assets.

All this requires, as a result of the negative past experiences, that enough time be allowed to pass to make sure that conditions in the host countries are stable. In any

case, diversifying the investment markets is a sound thing in itself. Such diversification depends on the available investment spheres.

[Question] What, in your assessment, is the future of Arab investments in France, especially since the coming elections may return the Socialist Party and its allies to power?

[Answer] A distinction must be made in this regard between existing investments and new investments. Insofar as the existing investments are concerned, there is nothing to cause one to doubt their future. The French economy is growing at a relatively good pace. The return of the socialist rule to France will not affect these investments negatively, especially since the development of the EEC in the next few years will lead to unifying the investment conditions in the various EEC countries.

As for new investments, they depend on developing Arab financial surpluses and on the portion of these surpluses that is made available for investment.

[Question] What is your opinion of the mergers that have affected a number of Middle Eastern banks operating in France. Do these mergers reflect the difficulties the Arab banks encounter in infiltrating the French market and the world markets generally?

[Answer] Mergers are not only desirable. The Middle Eastern banks urgently need them to survive. We have already pointed out the reason.

The capital of each of these banks individually is not enough to counter the challenges emanating from the new developments occurring in the money and financial markets and, consequently, in the world banking apparatus and in the manner in which this apparatus deals with these markets. There is no doubt that mergers create banking units with strong capital that puts them on an equal footing with foreign banks and enables them to face these developments confidently and successfully.

Providing expertise and high capabilities is exorbitantly costly. Small banks cannot afford such costs whereas big banks resulting from mergers can attract such capabilities and can afford their cost easily.

Major banks resulting from mergers can gain a larger share of the transactions of the major firms in the French market and in the world markets by virtue of the fact that these units can be bolstered with the human and material elements needed to bring about such infiltration.

[Question] Has the Saudi Bank participated in selling the shares of some French establishments to the private sector? Do French laws impose restrictions on foreign participation in French firms and establishments?

[Answer] Yes, the Saudi Bank has participated indirectly in selling some of the shares of a number of French public establishments to some of its Arab and foreign clients from the private sector.

It is worth noting that the Saudi Bank succeeded several years ago in penetrating the local market and the French provinces, in expanding and diversifying its transactions with the major French firms, in developing its activities in the international money and financial markets and in emphasizing its role as a business bank as well as its role as a commercial bank.

[Question] What, in your opinion, is the best solution to the crisis of the third world's indebtedness to a number of international banks? Are the Arab banks involved in doubtful debts owed by some third world countries?

[Answer] The crisis of third world debts and its consequences constitute a phenomenon that is not unique to Arab banks. It is an international phenomenon from which hardly any bank has escaped. The solution to this crisis must, in our opinion, be founded on a tripartite cooperation in which the rich countries and their governmental and financial institutions, the indebted countries and the international financial institutions, such as the IMF and the World Bank, participate.

08494

EGYPT

Unnamed Sources Give Details of Moscow Agreement

45040149b Paris *AL-MUSTAQBAL* in Arabic
28 May 88 p 10

[Text] Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev chose to receive 'Isma't 'Abd-al-Majid, Egypt's minister of foreign affairs, before the latter's meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze "to stress through this special step the importance of restoring the Soviet-Egyptian relations to their correct course."

During Gorbachev's 90-minute meeting with the Egyptian minister, the two sides held talks which the Soviet foreign minister characterized as "comprehensive," adding: "The only thing left for us is to conclude the economic and technical cooperation agreement." The Soviet minister further added: "These talks have been very profound and practical." 'Isma't 'Abd al-Majid said: "President Husni Mubarak's message expresses the Egyptian leadership's desire to meet with the Soviet leadership which has displayed wisdom, objectivity and seriousness toward all problems."

Informed Egyptian circles believe that "numerous circumstances and changes have paved the way for this visit" which has underscored the following given:

The need to revitalize relations between Cairo and Moscow and to select two ambassadors who are up to the level of the importance of the relations.

Moscow has realized that Egypt cannot be a part of the U.S. strategy opposed to Moscow.

Egypt has realized that it is not in its interest to be hostile to the Soviets or to deny their role, considering that they are one of the two superpowers. This has become evident through Egypt's emphasis on the need to hold the international conference and not to exclude the Soviet Union from it because such exclusion impedes any movement.

Settling the military debts Egypt owes Moscow within the framework of clear conditions and facilities through Gorbachev's direct intervention which has become evident through abolition of the two-percent interest debts. Meanwhile, the interest on the military debt Egypt owes the United States amounts to 14 percent.

The most significant outcome of 'Abd-al-Majid's meeting with the Soviet leadership has been the conclusion of more economic and military agreements. The most important economic agreements reached are:

Participation in developing the coke industry to increase the production to 560,000 tons.

Participation in raising the capacity of the ceramics factory to 156,000 tons.

The conclusion of 48 contracts valued at 48 million pounds sterling to supply spareparts for the Egyptian steel industries.

Discussions on a one-billion ruble loan (more than \$1 billion) to be advanced by Moscow at a low interest rate to finance several projects in the second development plan.

At the military level, the most important report leaked about the Soviet-Egyptian talks is that Egypt has requested that Soviet B.M29 armored vehicles be manufactured in Egypt. Egyptian military experts believe that this vehicle is the most suitable for the Egyptian forces.

08494

'Expert' Views Egyptian, Pan-Arab Economies

45040149a Kuwait *AL-WATAN* in Arabic
20 May 88 p 8

[Interview with Dr Ahmad al-Murshidi, Arab economic planning expert, by Nadiyah Hasan in Cairo; date not given.]

[Excerpt] Cairo—Despite all the glittering slogans raised semi-regularly about renaissance, progress, breaking the barriers of backwardness and enhancing both the

individual and society economically, socially and culturally, we have not been able to get on the bandwagon of progress. Even though the policy of 5-year economic development plans has been adopted at the Arab level, we have not been able to position ourselves properly on the world economy map. What is worse, we are getting deeper and deeper into debt and are being pulled toward the abyss.

Is it the gap between theory and application or is it that the theoretical basis itself is founded on failure to understand the nature and philosophy of planning and the scientific principles on which planning is built? Moreover, are the plans themselves truly integrated plans intended to add and to overcome or are they merely a correction process based on "patching" and on filling the gaps in the existing situation? If the latter, then these plans will force us to revolve in the same vicious circle for as long as the various political regimes are founded on oppression of citizens and as long as what they offer the citizen does not exceed the bare minimum.

Does the reason for the failure lie in the successive turbulent political and economic changes, beginning with the socialist school and its public sector and ending with the sharp turn toward the open-door economy whose initial laws restored the era of foreign concessions, expanded the private sector's role and opened a wide door for uncoded and unrestricted foreign investment. The open-door economy has also brought about successive laws and law amendments which have created confusion and caused us to lose sight of the objectives. The result is further deterioration, backwardness and sharp social differences.

AL-WATAN interviewed Dr Ahmad al-Murshidi, one of our Arab world's economic planning experts, on these fateful issues.

[Question] On the basis of your work as a UN economic expert, what is your view of the Arab homeland's economic systems generally and of Egypt's system in particular?

[Answer] The common characteristic is that we are all backward countries, regardless of whether the average per capita income is high or whether it varies from country to country. Average income is not the criterion of progress because what distinguishes advanced countries from backward countries is the advanced citizen in the former and the backward citizen in the latter, not the rich citizen or poor citizen.

In the Arab homeland generally, man is guided, regardless of the difference in the regime ruling him. This is the reason for our backwardness from the ocean to the gulf. Even in the countries that consider themselves liberated, this liberty is very meager and we find that wealth is

concentrated in the hands of a small part of the population while the rest of the population has to work for a living. Where a dictatorship is found, not the least chance of progress or development exists.

Planning and Man's Liberation

[Question] On the basis of your experience in the Ministry of Planning in the 1950's and 1960's, do you think that it is possible to formulate for Egypt an applicable economic plan capable of achieving acceptable development rates under the circumstances and variables of the 1980's and 1990's?

[Answer] The Egyptian citizen does not enjoy the smallest degree of freedom. The public sector has become our main concern. Despite its advantages, this sector kills intellectual pioneership and individual ambitions. When we drew up our first plan, we were beginners. But we did put Egypt on the path of sound planning and development in the hope that we would be able to improve ourselves. Very regrettably, such development did not materialize because the Ministry of Planning officials did not understand what was intended by development. This was the case in the 1950's and 1960's. But now that we are on the threshold of the 1990's, we must make a 180-degree turn in order that we may achieve development and we must define the economic, political and social content of this development clearly and in advance.

Arab Economic Integration

[Question] Do you see a possibility of coordination and integration between the Arab economic systems?

[Answer] Do our governments work for the benefit of their working classes in order that they may work for the benefit of the working citizen throughout the Arab homeland? The answer, of course, is well known.

[Question] What is your opinion of the open-door economy and what degree of development has it achieved for Egypt?

[Answer] We must first note that the Egyptian economy became a closed economy as of 1960. With the onset of the 1970's and the transfer of power from one ruler to another, it was natural that matters would not keep on moving in the same direction as before. But regrettably, we can call the change introduced [in the 1970's] a return to the era of foreign concessions. The first law issued under the canopy of the open-door economy was a law which confined benefits to foreigners and which gave foreigners the right to invest in the country and to exploit its resources in any manner they wished. A number of economists, myself included, protested this law. So it was amended with the addition of a provision stating that "the Egyptian citizen shall be given the privileges given the foreigner." There is no doubt that the investor

wants guarantees and facilities. Instead, political considerations intruded and numerous decrees were adopted behind the backs of legal institutions. Consequently, the open-door economy turned into a plunder-oriented commerce and new classes of parasitic Egyptian and foreign investors came into existence.

In light of the above, we say that we cannot assess the open-door economy experiment in isolation from the political corruption that engulfed it.

[Question] Practically, can the socialist economy be combined with the capitalist economy?

[Answer] Yes, the two systems can be combined. But we must select what suits us best in the two systems. There are common denominators and points of agreement between the two.

Who Ties Bell Around Cat's Neck

[Question] How can we advance Egypt under the current circumstances and where do we begin?

[Answer] First, the law of the trustworthy and the experts must not govern us. Second, we must stop brainwashing the people. The information media do not provide the citizen with any intellectual stimulation. Rather, they do the contrary. Our method of managing our economy relies on foreign loans. But we must learn how to rely on others and in what areas to rely on them and we must know how we will repay what we borrow. In my opinion, the problem is a political problem fundamentally.

Private Sector Is Shackled

[Question] Can the private sector play an effective role in the 5-year plan and what are the projects that can be offered this sector during the plan?

[Answer] The role played by the private sector in any society is a serious role. The private sector should not and must not be disregarded under any circumstances. Regardless of how thoroughly one annihilates the political frameworks under which a society lives, individuals working in the public sector of a totalitarian society will, when shifting to the private sector, only move within the limits which they believe will shield them from punishment. The private sector permitted to exist in the developing countries is usually restricted by obstacles. Only the favorites in this sector are permitted to engage in fundamental economic activities or in major projects. Such a private sector is permitted to engage in small and limited business activities.

With regard to Egypt, the laws prohibit Egyptians from engaging in mining, heavy industries or the oil industry. Such activities are banned to Egyptians whereas there is nothing to prevent U.S., Italian or French firms from

investing and engaging in such activities. But for an Egyptian private firm to do so is a taboo. The same goes for numerous other industries.

An individual may be permitted to import cement but he is not permitted to build a cement factory. An Egyptian is even prohibited from engaging in land reclamation activity unless he obtains the approval of the armed forces, the Antiquities Authority, the Mining and Quarrying Authority and so forth. Fourteen official agencies must agree that this or that piece of desert contains no resource, other than agriculture, from which the Egyptian can accumulate a wealth. It is as if the Egyptian laws have been established to keep the ordinary Egyptian poor.

Restricting the private sector and placing legal and bureaucratic impediments in its way is the main reason behind the failure of the development plans. The planners, regardless of their positions, are government employees first and foremost and their development is the development that restricts the country with the debts and the loans for which we compete with one another. It behooves the development plans to entrust the main role to the private sector after formulating and establishing the "rules of the game" for it. The private sector should stand prepared to fill the structural economic and production gaps and should present its projects to the people in the form of shares to be owned by individuals, contenting itself with public utility, road and sovereignty projects.

08494

Interview With Head of al-Jihad Group in Asyut 45040141 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 8 May 88 p 9

[Interview with Usamah Rushdi, commander of the al-Jihad Group in Aswan, by Hasan 'Abd-al-Basit; Asyut, date not given]

[Text] There was nothing uncertain about the responses and answers that pharmacy student Usamah Rushdi, commander of the al-Jihad Group in Asyut, and his deputy, the physician Ahmad 'Abdu Salim, gave to my questions about their methods and goals in missionary activity, people's rejection of them and their activity, their understanding of "the promotion of virtue and suppression of vice," the philosophy of government and art, and other problems.

Their goal is the establishment of an Islamic caliphate, beginning with an Islamic state in Egypt. For this purpose, they may use means that do not please men, but which, according to them, please God. In the matter of forcible change, they distinguish between acts of sabotage and violence that target particular organizations that spread corruption and license, and acts of violence against public economic and administrative institutions. The former acts are permissible; the latter are to be completely rejected. The al-Jihad Group has thus been a

fundamental party in all the clashes that have occurred in the city of Asyut during the last 10 years. Its members are high-school and college students. The group carries on its activities through students who come to Asyut from the other governorates of Upper Egypt to study.

The conversation with the commander and deputy commander of the al-Jihad organization was at once fascinating and difficult. It lasted for about 3 hours in a university member's home next to the mosque of the Shari'ah Society, where they carry on their activities. The text of the interview follows:

[Question] Let us talk about the activity of the al-Jihad Group.

[Answer] To begin with, the name "al-Jihad" was given to us by [state] security. There is no reason to summarize our activities as consisting only of "jihad" [armed struggle for Islam]. Our other activities are many and include the various degrees of promoting virtue and suppressing vice, "jihad" for the sake of God, advice, guidance, education, purifying the ranks, social services, economic projects, penetrating the barriers set before us in cultural and educational institutions, and confronting regimes that oppose the Islamic movement. We also have other activities, such as meetings for political education and the school of Islamic science, where we study the Islamic sciences in a systematic way that enables members of the group to carry out the obligation of missionary activity.

[Question] How does the group understand the concept of "the promotion of virtue and suppression of vice"?

[Answer] We understand it as the Islamic scholars understand it. Neglect of the promotion of virtue and suppression of vice entails the destruction of us all and of every good Muslim, because it is all of religion. Thus, we are defending our existence. The degrees of this activity, as clarified by scholars, including the Imam al-Ghazali in his book "The Revival of Religious Sciences," begin with informing; then comes a gentle word, then reprimand and strong words, and finally blows or prevention by force. These degrees are incumbent upon every suppresser of vice and promoter of virtue; one may pass from one degree to the next only after completing the previous degree.

The important thing is that the vice one wishes to change should not be replaced by an even greater vice. The Imam Ibn Taymiyah holds the principle of advantages and disadvantages: If the disadvantage outweighs the advantage, there should be no change.

The official scholars attempt to distort this idea by pleading certain intellectual claims to satisfy the authorities at the expense of Islamic law. We find the Mufti holding that only the government may forcibly alter what is vicious, even though the Imam al-Nawawi reported that the consensus [of scholars] was that individual private persons might forcibly alter what is vicious.

When we confronted the Mufti here in Asyut with this consensus, he was unable to reply to it. All he could say was, "I accept only this consensus." What does this mean, when consensus comes after the Qur'an and the Sunnah as a source of law? How can His Excellency the Mufti reject the consensus of the Islamic community?

[Question] What minds produced in a particular time is incumbent only upon the community of that time. The Imam al-Juwayni or al-Nawawi was not thinking for us, people of the eighties. Furthermore, we must distinguish between Islam, which is the Qur'an and the Sunnah, and Islamic thought. Only the former is sacred.

[Answer] We are not ashamed of our religion, as are the government scholars, who look on religion as if it were something to be hidden. His Excellency the Mufti, for example, said in an old book of his, explicating the Surah of Light, that veiling is well-founded and the preponderant opinion in religion and that the great majority of Muslims had agreed on it. After becoming Mufti, he went back and said that veiling is not obligatory for anyone. Afterwards, the Court of Administrative Law treated us fairly and allowed women students wearing the veil to enter the university, confirming that the veil had a basis in religion. There are juridical opinions on this subject. Why didn't His Excellency the Mufti reply to Ahmad Baha'-al-Din, who said that veiling has no basis in religion?

The strange thing is that these scholars work on behalf of the very secularists and communists who are demolishing all the bounds of respect for the scholars of Islam. Look at what Faraj Fawdah did in the newspaper AL-AHALI to the Rector of al-Azhar, when he rained daggers upon him and reproached him for his government-paid salary. 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan, Salah 'Isa, Rif'at al-Sa'id, and Nawal al-Sa'dawi have attacked prominent religious figures, such as Shaykh al-Sha'rawi. Despite our disagreement on certain points with the Rector of al-Azhar and Shaykh al-Sha'rawi—a legitimate disagreement based on principle—we reject, yea we will not allow anyone to slander Islam in the person of the Rector of al-Azhar. The rectorate of al-Azhar is an object of intense concern in the heart of every Muslim.

To return to the problem of altering what is vicious that we raised with His Excellency the Mufti in his recent meeting with us: We said to him, "When you stand against altering what is vicious in this way, you advocate a larger reality—namely, supporting existing regimes. If Muslim young people were permitted to prevent unjust men from doing wrong, fight these unjust men, and rebel against unjust rulers, these regimes would fall in a single day. Therefore, you are blocking our way from the very beginning." He said that the forcible altering of what is vicious by private individuals entailed even greater corruption and anarchy. We said the process was not one of attacking the rights of the people. We would consider the matter carefully; if forcibly altering what is vicious entailed greater corruption, we would retreat. There are

reprehensible things we do not undertake to change, but we try to advise people to boycott them. Video cassette clubs and movies are an obvious example. The question is not one of smashing a stage or rejecting a movie show; such things lack permanence.

[Question] Then what is the explanation for your attack on the artistic performances of your colleagues?

[Answer] We are trying to change objectionable artistic performances and concerts by force because we know that the university is not capable of resisting every day. We are supported by a large number of students, and even the university administration rejects these things. The performance that took place a month and a half ago and was followed by opening fire on the students, with 2 wounded and 69 arrested, was not scheduled to be held in the university. It was forced on the university administration by a decision from the interior minister, who is trying to limit the expansion of Islamic groups by promoting these concerts. He is also trying to make some progress in areas in which State Security believes it once retreated or made concessions under pressure. (This was confirmed by Dr Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, head of the faculty club. He said he had advised Dr 'Abd-al-Raziq, the dean of the university, not to hold the performance, but that orders were to hold it, even if half the students and half the security men died. These performances have been prohibited by decision of the university administration and the student union because they are both a religious and a social problem.) We were not brought up on chocolate and disco. The heat of Upper Egypt has smelted us and transformed us into men with a sense of honor. We do not approve of young men dancing with young women.

[Question] How do you relax?

[Answer] We are very good at relaxing. We regularly hold races, games, and celebrations. We have a wonderful game called "pull the rope" [tug of war].

There are sports days organized by the student unions, bicycle races, sports and Ramadan tournaments. Ever since the "brothers" became powerful in the student union and the university general union in 1978, and until the beginning of 1981, they used to organize trips to Aswan, Luxor, the Fayyum, and Port Said, and educational trips to the Red Sea and to factories—a trip for girls, and a trip for boys. In this matter, we are like al-Azhar University, which separates males and females in its colleges.

We are not against student recreational activity, but we are against dissoluteness. Our parties are not Qur'an and Hadith, but rather playing and laughing within the bounds of Islamic morality.

[Question] What does the slogan, "Art is the enemy of God," mean?

[Answer] Never have we raised such a slogan; it was trumped up against us. However, by "art" do you mean drawing naked pictures, and singing by effeminate men and by women that is nothing but burlesque? If art is only that, we will be the first to combat it.

The artistic story that Islam allows is the one that glorifies virtue and condemns vice. Permissible dramatic scenes are those that serve Islam and do not present what is opposed to it on the level of form and content. In general, these are delicate subjects. We hope you will not lead us to a discussion of artistic problems, the nature of the drama, and so forth. Islam is based on moral precepts; we do not accept any things that violate these precepts, whatever their name may be. That means that if art means mixing men and women, kissing, and sex scenes, it is to be rejected.

If as a general rule Islam does not allow one to look at women ("Tell the believers to lower their gaze"—Qur'an 24:30), how shall I allow women to stand on stage or on any medium? This does not mean that women are not to go out to work. They sell, buy, and work, but in areas where they do not mix with men, and where they preserve their Islamic traditions. They leave their protected realm only for necessity.

[Question] Does the theatre violate Islam?

[Answer] Yes. The violation is embodied in the use of instruments and music. The Imam Ibn al-Qayyim reported the consensus [of scholars] that music is forbidden. What is allowed is: women playing the tambourine at weddings and festivals, children singing, camel drivers chanting to urge the animal forward, and religious recitation. Vanity, no matter how widespread, will some day pass away. The present state of affairs imposes nothing upon Islam. We must not bend Islam because of a craving for pre-Islamic forms and models that evolved in the absence of Islam.

The problem is that there is still a sharp conflict between the Islamic cultural project and the Western cultural project. The forms of this conflict are many—military and cultural. The West has attracted the elite among us. It has nourished them on its ideas and made them speak its language. The result has been a large-scale war against the path, thought, culture, and history of Islam. Everyone who called for Islamic government was accused of being backward and reactionary. We have no objection to accepting the West's material development, but within a framework of Islamic ethics. Ideas and values must be a product of Islam. We will not sell our religion for what is called culture. If Islam were ruling among us, this fragmentation would be healed; the 1 billion Muslims would become a power feared by America, Russia, and all the world powers.

[Question] Do you mean the Islamic caliphate?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] But isn't it an unrealistic proposal?

[Answer] On the contrary, it is completely realistic. The Soviet Union is composed of dozens of republics and nationalities—America is also. Why not the Islamic world, which is geographically, culturally, and historically connected? Western and Eastern national security is based on the idea of fragmenting the Islamic world, which has been prepared for this at all levels. If we consider Israel's threats to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and its destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the matter becomes clear.

If the Islamic caliphate—any caliphate—were to apply Islam as God wanted it, it would become appropriate for all men to follow, and they would strive for it. The closest model is the Ottoman caliphate. Even though it was accused of being a dictatorship, the freedoms it allowed were greater than those that any regime currently allows. The caliphate did not fall for this reason. Rather, the plot was to destroy Islam as a path, idea, and philosophy. If people dealt objectively with history, they would be fair [to the Ottoman caliphate].

Despite its sickness, the Ottoman caliphate protected Palestine, while 100 million Arabs have not been able to protect it. Palestine was lost by the Arabs.

People try to convince us that Islamic history is all killing, snatching slave girls, singing girls, and slave lads; that there were no conquests and no Islamic state that ruled the world 1,000 years and lit up Europe's cultural path. Islamic scholars have transmitted a consensus about the obligation to establish an Islamic caliphate.

[Question] Again you argue from "consensus." The form of government is one of the things that Islam has left to time and independent human judgment. Why do you restrict it?

[Answer] Hold your tongue; there is no need for accusations. We agree to any modern form or model of government, whether it be a federal union or a confederation, as long as it restores to us our unity. But these secular regimes that rule us, that separate religion and the state, that strike down Islamic movements and aim to demonstrate their loyalty to the West—are these regimes the ones that will give us Islam? I think that someone who lacks a thing cannot give it. Our duty as Muslims is to raise the banner of holy war to change these regimes and personalities and replace them with others who take pride in Islam. They are something reprehensible that ought to be changed. We have dealt with them according to the steps of the Shari'ah, beginning with advice and guidance; but to no avail, because they close their ears to calls for reform and to the people's desire for implementation of Islamic law. What are we waiting for? Jihad [armed struggle for Islam] is the best way to greatly shorten the suffering of the people and destroy the historic lethargy and laziness that our nation is experiencing.

[Question] Jihad, as you picture it, starts from an intellectual position bearing a resemblance to the thought of other intellectual groups, despite their apparent opposition to you—such as the communists, for example.

[Answer] Brother, there is no need for insults. We utterly refuse to be lumped with the communists. The purpose of this tone is to draw popular sympathy away from the Islamic tendency, or specifically to strike at this tendency by inciting the masses and the government against it. The difference between us and the communists or Marxists is great. They are not interested in Islam; indeed, they combat it. We strive to smooth the road before the people. When the communist turns to violence, he does not distinguish between a Muslim and an ordinary person, or between those who are for and those who are against the regime; the important thing for him is change—any change. They are in love with blood; we strive to prevent bloodshed. Their goal is the dictatorship of a class; our goal is the freedom of a belief.

[Question] You are accused of rebelling against the legitimate democratic government.

[Answer] What democracy? The experiment, brother, is pitiful and does not tempt us to participate. The aim of it is to defuse popular pressure so that it does not explode. Things on the political stage proceed like a stage comedy: sessions of the People's Assembly, proposed laws, the method of debates, rubber-stamping, and cheering. If anyone opposes, they rebuke them sternly and say, "Defer to the majority opinion, O minority. Is this the democracy we taught you?"

Thus an opposition exists to bestow legitimacy upon the regime, not to open the door to freedom and variety of opinion. We have therefore criticized and continue to criticize our brothers who advocate "Islam is the solution." We criticize them for participating in this game. The Shari'ah, for the sake of which they entered parliament, will never be implemented as long as laws regulating the conduct and relations between the various institutions within the state or that regulate the relation between various pressure groups remains un-Islamic. How can these regimes produce an Islamic model, when their intellectual origins are un-Islamic?

Members of the People's Assembly—and they are regarded as the people with decision-making power in the state or the Islamic regimes—are not chosen on the basis of the qualities of competence and integrity defined by Islam. The only condition is that they be of Egyptian parentage. Secularists, communists, or atheists—it makes no difference! If they really wanted to implement Islamic law, all the proposals about it would come out of the drawers of the People's Assembly. The proposals involve information media, economy, education—on an Islamic basis. What is lacking? Foreign policy? We want a foreign policy based on friendship with believers and hostility to infidels. It is unthinkable for an Islamic state to form an alliance with Ethiopia, which is attacking

Islamic Somalia, or for another [Islamic state] to ally itself with India so that it can strike at Islamic Pakistan. It is unthinkable for Muslim soldiers to go to war in the ranks of Soviet forces against the Afghan Mujahidin, or for an [Islamic] state to conclude a treaty with Israel, which is heaping blows on Arabs and Muslims everywhere, while using its soldiers to strike at Libya or any other Islamic country that wants to raise its head apart from the Americans.

In fact, we feel that the slogan, "Islam is the solution," began to cause aversion, after it became trite and nothing was accomplished by means of it. Let the members of the Muslim Brotherhood remember that when al-Sadat wanted to abolish a democracy that had teeth, he destroyed it with a decree. Will they learn a lesson? There is an Islamic alternative that is more of a safeguard than democracy.

[Question] What is it?

[Answer] Shura [Islamic consultation], which is incumbent upon the ruler. In it, the scope for independent judgment is in matters where there is no explicit provision in the Shari'ah. In the light of explicit provisions, there is no work for a majority or a minority.

Western democracy means government of the people, by the people, for the people. Islamic Shura means government of the people, by Islam, for the benefit of the people.

This does not mean that we claim a divine mandate for ourselves. However, the choice of the ruler and of the people who make decisions should be on the basis of the conditions laid down by Islam. Afterwards, it is the right of any citizen to advise the ruler and confront him. It is the right of the decision-makers to remove the ruler if he does wrong. It is the duty of a Muslim people to rebel against the ruler if he clearly rebels against Islam. One must, however, bear in mind that if the Shari'ah laws are formulated in a way that conflicts with people's interests, let everyone take a stand against them. This is because in general human beings are prone to error. The Islamic constitution may sometimes be subjected to incorrect human understanding, just as any other constitution—for example, the British.

[Question] But misunderstanding of the British constitution does not expose a person to the sword reserved for Muslims declared to have become infidels, a sword always unsheathed against those who oppose the Islamic constitution!

[Answer] The Islamic constitution will be implemented by persons chosen on the basis of Islamic conditions; they will neither be prophets, nor have sanctity. So how will people be declared to have become infidels? The decision-makers we have in mind are not shaykhs with turbans who know only about fatwas concerning menstruation, childbirth, and ritual purity; they are Muslims

versed in religion and versed in the world. We do not claim that Islamic law is the magic wand that one points at difficult problems and they are solved, or that abolishing interest from the banks will set everything right with them and with us. Rather, these are first steps on the right road. If we look at the Iranian revolution, which is the closest current example of implementation, we find that the government lowered the salaries of ministers after the revolution to a quarter of what they had been, and no minister objected, and that it took many steps on the basis of Islamic law.

[Question] Do you know that your clashes with the police caused an extension of the emergency law?

[Answer] That is not true. Making an outburst about simple events and proclaiming that the internal situation is unstable and dangerous are matters with foreign-policy dimensions. The regime wants to deliver a certain message to the Western countries and the United States, so as to support its requests to the IMF and creditor nations. When its requests were met with coolness, the regime realized that the best way to stimulate their interest was to intimate that the Islamic movement was actually threatening the regime; if they did not stand beside it, the regime would fall into the clutches of the Islamic extremists. What America and the Western countries fear the most is another Iran in the region!

12937

Islamic Company To Establish Airline
45000103 *London AL-HAWADETH in Arabic*
10 Jun 88 pp 44-45

[Text] After the Islamic banks comes the Islamic airlines, and the first company of this sort will have Egypt as its home.

This is what was learned from an announcement from the Islamic investment company "Huda Misr" about its intention to establish a second airline in Egypt and allocate initial capital estimated at \$200 million.

The new company, which will be a direct competitor with EgyptAir, is well on the way to establishment. It has purchased nine passenger planes from the U.S., among them two jumbo jets that have been in service for five years, five Boeing 727s, and two Lockheed Tristars.

Company sources expect that it will begin operations in October and affirmed that the Egyptian government and Ministry of Civil Aviation will support its undertaking.

Residence Regulations Announced for Investors, 'Gulf Citizens'
45000108A *Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic*
12 Jun 88 p 30

[Text] Every Gulf citizen can reside in Egypt for a whole year with his family, subject to renewal, with the proviso that they exchange \$180 per month. This was announced

by Brigadier General Ahmad Fahmi, the Egyptian interior minister, who explained that whoever has resided continuously in Egypt for a period of 5 years has the right to purchase travel tickets in Egyptian currency. Egypt also permits this of investors who have resided there for 3 years and permits foreign women married to Egyptians to obtain citizenship after 2 years of marriage. As for Jordanians and Sudanese, they have the right of permanent residence in Egypt without the necessity for renewal.

ISRAEL

Palestinian Uprisings Reportedly Impact on Life for Syrian Jews

44000119 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
25 May 88 p 37

[Tzadok Yehezqeli; 'Damascus Jews: Not Leaving Their Homes']

[Text] Syrian Jews lived under unofficial house arrest for a week with the outbreak of the uprising in the West Bank 6 months ago. Since that time there has not been any major difficulty and they have returned to their normal way of life. This is what an American tourist related after returning recently from a trip to Syria. In the course of his visit he was able to meet and talk at length with a number of Jews.

The tourist returned from his visit to Syria with detailed testimony which he recorded about a conversation with one of the Jews whom he met and excerpts of his conversation reached YEDI'OT AHARONOT. Details on the man who gave this account to the tourist and the circumstances under which they met are guarded in the system for understandable reasons. Here are excerpts of the account of a Jew living in Damascus:

"It is always difficult for us here, day after day. This is not a new thing, but when things started happening on the West Bank the situation became even more difficult. No one has harmed us yet but they show a lot of photos on television from there and they talk a lot about Israel. They hate us even more now. They say: You see what these Israelis are doing. They are using starvation methods and afterwards, murdering the Palestinians.

"There is fear in the community that something might happen to us. The non-Jews here have friends in the West Bank and Gaza and sometimes their friends and acquaintances are killed. There lies our greatest fear. We do not go outside. We almost never went out as it was but we go out now even less. Right after the disturbances began the rabbi informed us not to leave the house, not to go to work. For a week we stayed in the house and did nothing. Afterwards, we went out. Even now, when there is a day when many are killed in the West Bank, we stay

at home and wait for a few days to pass. When there was a large pro-Palestinian demonstration in Damascus we again stayed at home. The next day we went out. What did we do? We prayed.

"We almost never travel outside the city. Every half hour soldiers detain you, requesting documentation and our documentation is written in red ink showing that we are Jews. When they see that you are a Jew they remove you from the car and begin to question you. Sometimes the soldier goes crazy and hits you. Seeing that you are Jewish he starts beating you.

"Our economic condition is not terrible. There is no lack of food. No one is hungry. Sometimes there is a shortage of flour or another product, but not only for us—for everyone. There is work, but at my job no one knows that I am Jewish. When I leave the house, the yarmulke always remains on the table. When I return I don't do it once again. The non-Jews must not know that I am a Jew.

"I love Israel. I love Dan Shomron more than anyone. We heard that he was in Uganda and I sometimes dream that he will come to take all of us to Israel. I also love Sharon a great deal. He is strong. Even at home we talk about him. We talk of how Sharon and Shomron will come to take us from here.

"There are eight Jews in prison in Damascus. So we have heard. We don't ask questions. We are not the only ones they pick up. People can be walking down the street and suddenly they put them in a car and drive off. There is no need to explain. Here you need to be vigilant in order to live. If you are not cautious you will not be alive very long."

This was the account the tourist brought back from his visit to Syria. According to the information he brought with him several of the eight Jews who were imprisoned in Damascus were released recently, after being beaten severely.

LIBYA

Committee Donates One Day's Pay for Palestinian Uprising

45000107 Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID, 4 May 88 p 8

[Text] Individuals associated with the People's Justice Committee in the Municipality of Tripoli have decided to donate a full day's pay to support the stone-throwing revolution led by the angry generation in occupied Palestine.

MOROCCO

Justice Minister Denies Prison Brutality

45190061d Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 15 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] The Ministry of Justice released the following statement Friday evening:

"Certain organs of the press have spread rumors to the effect that a number of prisoners at Ain Borja in Casablanca have been the victims of 'brutality and arbitrary treatment' on the part of the prison administration and guards.

"The Ministry of Justice categorically denies such allegations, which are absolutely groundless.

"The prison administration, which closely monitors the situation of all prisoners, including those mentioned, emphasizes that it is rather the latter who have made the insults and directed their blows at the deputy director of the administration and that the prison administration has taken disciplinary measures against the attackers within the framework of prison administration regulations.

"Two prisoners did in fact appeal to the deputy director of the institution on 29 January 1988 when the latter was making his regular inspection of the prison and addressed a series of demands to him. When the latter explained that such demands are contrary to prison regulations, they responded with blows and insults, after five of their comrades had joined them, forcing him to call for help from guards, who with difficulty managed to subdue the prisoners and take them back to their cells.

"The two attackers were then placed in individual cells for 10 days, in accordance with existing regulations. The administration refrained from applying the same disciplinary measures to the other five prisoners, who were preparing to take academic exams given at Kenitra Central Prison and the Casablanca Civil Prison.

"The Ministry of Justice will continue to oversee the application of regulations, oppose any subversive or provocative action and endeavor to impose respect for order and discipline within the penal institutions.

"The Ministry of Justice is astonished that certain information organs have spread and joined in such allegations, without first verifying their authenticity.

"The Ministry reserves the right to institute legal proceedings against anyone attempting to spread lies damaging the reputation of the prison administration and its personnel, in accordance with existing law." (MAP)

11,464/9738

Tourist Industry Reports Rapid Growth
45190061c Casablanca MOROC SOIR in French
23 Apr 88 pp 1, 4

[Text] The number of foreign tourists visiting Morocco during the first quarter of 1988 experienced an increase of 17.1 percent over the same period last year, totaling 382,920, according to remarks made Friday by Minister of Tourism Moussa Saadi at a press conference.

The increase reached a record rate in March, Saadi said, when it hit 28 percent, compared with 13 percent in January and 7.4 percent in February. The number of nights spent in lodgings rose 15 percent over the first quarter of 1987.

The increase applies to tourists from European, Asian and American countries as well as African and Arab nations. For the month of March alone, the number of Arab tourists visiting Morocco rose 150 percent. However, the number of British tourists dropped 15 percent, Saadi said.

This situation resulted in the inability of hotels to handle the large flow of tourists, particularly in the ancient cities, mainly Marrakech, which recorded an increase of 13.3 percent in the number of nights spent in better hotels, 33.4 percent in Casablanca, about 20 percent in Tetouan, 24.2 percent in Oujda, 20.2 percent in El Jadida, 20 percent in Khouribga and 45 percent in Laayoune.

The minister added that his department has held meetings with professionals in the tourist sector to meet the situation and set up regional committees and a national committee for the purpose, encouraging tour operators and investors to build tourist units and complexes to respond to the growing demand of the Moroccan tourist market.

The minister noted that the number of prize winners among Ministry of Tourism training centers totaled 525 in 1987, while the number from luxury hotels built during the same year is 20, with a capacity of 2,900 beds.

For the same year, the number of tourists arriving in our country totaled 1,660,300, an increase of 8 percent over 1986. The number of nights spent in lodgings by tourists is put at 17.3 million, compared with 16.6 million in 1986, an increase of 4.2 percent and an average stay per tourist of about 11 days, the minister said. Foreign exchange revenue totaled 7.8 billion dirhams in 1987, an increase of 16 percent over 1986.

Saadi announced at the end of his press conference that the National Folk Arts Festival will be held in Marrakech from 10 to 19 June, based on the theme "From Authenticity to Modernity." Some 27 groups, made up of 450 individuals, will participate.

11,464/9738

Increased Growth of Kenitra Port Discussed
45190061a Casablanca AL-BAYANE in French
13 Apr 88 pp 1, 3

[Article by T.A.]

[Text] Revival of the Kenitra port, development of the port of Chliate, major problems standing in the way of the coordinated, rapid development of the agro-food and

agro-industrial sector in Gharb and the economic, social and cultural advancement of the city and province: These were the central issues of the Fourth General Assembly of the Kenitra and Regional Economic and Social Development Association (ADESKR) recently held in the capital of Gharb in connection with the effort toward food self-sufficiency.

Speakers at the assembly all stressed the need for the suitable development of the natural potential of the Gharb plain and the strategic position of the city of Kenitra. To achieve this, a relentless battle must be waged and all available human and material means must be intensely mobilized so as to remedy or even completely eradicate all difficulties facing the revival of commercial, economic and industrial activity in Gharb. The region could obviously regain its status as the breadbasket of Morocco, as it was in the 1960's, and provide at least 80 percent of the nation's industrial crop production.

Opening the session, General Secretary Janah Abderrahim, a professional agricultural engineer totally familiar with all aspects of the problem, all of Gharb's secrets, its pedological, hydrographic and hydrological virtues and all the deficiencies of its soil, reminded his audience of the prime objectives being pursued.

"In this connection," he said, "we must remember that since its creation on 21 February 1983, ADESKR has set the following prime objectives: to reflect on the problems standing in the way of the development of Kenitra and its region, particularly port problems, and to participate in efforts aimed at promoting the social and cultural progress of the citizens of the city of Kenitra (...)."

Mlah M'Chiche El Alama, president of the association, particularly emphasized the sustained measures and efforts of his office aimed at making officials understand that there can be no real economic and social takeoff for Kenitra and Gharb without the economic revival of the port initially, followed by the development of the port of Chlihate, with all the action this would entail.

Regarding the former point, emphasis was placed on the flagrant absurdity of the monopoly of Casablanca and Tangiers over maritime traffic at Kenitra's expense. For example, how can one accept that citrus fruit produced in Gharb would be exported through the port of Casablanca?

"By reconstruction of the outer harbor of Mehdyia, constant dredging of the navigable channel of the Sebou River and providing cranes and other machinery needed to handle 1 million tons a year, the port of Kenitra could play its proper economic role in the northwestern area of the kingdom (...)."

The speaker also drew a complete picture of savings—and therefore, reduced import and export charges and costs—that could be achieved if the port of Kenitra were used. The following are a few comparative figures:

Lighterage and transport costs involved in importing European wheat are: 52.13 dirhams a ton through the port of Kenitra; 84.08 a ton through Casablanca; and 88.23 through Tangiers.

Regarding exports of citrus fruits and early produce from Gharb, lighterage and transport costs are: 52.13 dirhams a ton through the port of Kenitra; 83.08 a ton through Casablanca; and 90.23 a ton through Tangiers.

"One can therefore see," M'Chiche El Alama concluded, "that going through the port of Kenitra would result in a savings of 32 dirhams per ton for European wheat and 36 dirhams per ton for citrus fruit and early produce (...)."

It is therefore necessary to demonopolize maritime traffic and divert it to the port of Kenitra.

Speakers at the assembly reviewed the many contacts and efforts made at all levels of the various ministries involved in order to solve the problem. Within this context, association experts demonstrated that it is practically possible to raise the volume of port traffic at Kenitra to 1 million tons a year instead of the some 500,000 at present. Transport would be done using vessels of 3,000 tons deadweight maximum. However, the Merchant Marine Directorate has categorically opposed requests to authorize the maritime transport of citrus fruit from Gharb through the port of Kenitra using the pretext that only COMANAV [Moroccan Shipping Company], which, paradoxically enough, does not have vessels of that tonnage, is authorized to do that type of transport. Producers have nevertheless contacted foreign companies which have such vessels and those companies have declared their willingness to provide the service at a lower cost. This fact had to be explained to COMANAV and the Merchant Marine Directorate before they would finally yield.

However, when contacted on this same subject, the minister of ocean fisheries and the Merchant Marine finally agreed, for his part, that either COMANAV should be equipped with 3,000-ton boats that would be chartered to Gharb producers or the latter should be given authorization to act on their own.

The essential point is that exports of citrus fruit and early produce from Gharb should be shipped through the port of Kenitra.

As for the port of Chlihate whose development is anticipated, ADESKR has also taken action and proposed viable suggestions for studies and construction to officials. We shall return to this subject in the future.

11,464/9738

Restrictive Export Policy Criticized

45190061b Casablanca AL-BAYANE in French
14 Apr 88 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mimoun Habriche]

[Text] There is no dearth of champions of the liberalization of imports in Morocco. Their main, albeit highly simplistic, argument is that, having opted for liberalism, Morocco cannot fail to open its doors in the overriding interest of its economy. They thus forgot that given its level of economic development, Morocco can absolutely not allow itself the costly luxury of committing itself to the liberal path more than countries such as the United States or those of West Europe.

And yet, what the partisans of liberalization, headed by our leaders, seem to forget is that for purely economic or political reasons, the industrialized capitalist countries have endowed themselves with a certain number of mechanisms aimed at protecting their industrial structure or their agriculture. Moroccan producers and exporters of agricultural products are well-acquainted with such practices, having felt the draconian nature of the protectionist obstacles raised by the EEC before their exports.

Indeed, starting in December 1987, EEC authorities began to apply a compensatory tax on Moroccan mandarin oranges, forcing national producers to halt their exports for a month. Likewise, Moroccan citrus fruit exports were stopped on 4 April to prevent them from being subjected to the tax.

The problem of citrus exports to the EEC is linked to two types of considerations:

With the elimination of the OCE [Control and Export Office] monopoly over exports of agricultural products, private organizations that converged on the market acted in an anarchic fashion, without taking EEC regulations into account or trying to diversify their outlets.

Moreover, Morocco can rightly claim it has been hurt by the existence of such regulations, which impose a restrictive schedule on shipment and set prices aimed at supporting European production. However, in their negotiations with Brussels, Moroccan leaders failed to gain the slightest concession.

Concerning tomato exports, the problem is different. For the past 15 years, reference prices rose artificially, going from 64 ECU [European accounting units] in 1972-1973 to 197.27 in 1988. Moroccan exports fell from 160,000 tons to 86,000 tons between those two seasons!

These figures reveal the limitations of the type of agricultural based on exports insofar as Moroccan producers have made considerable efforts to adapt their production to a European market that rejects it. But what is especially worthy of note is that just as EEC authorities do

not hesitate to adopt conservative measures to protect their markets as soon as they deem it necessary, Morocco's trade policy must not be restricted to the set framework of agreements. On the contrary, it should be based on the circumstances so that the farmers' interests will be protected.

Furthermore, EEC practices must lead us to a revision of Morocco's foreign trade policy in the direction of a diversification of markets, coordinated efforts on the part of producers and serious protection of the national economy.

11,464/9738

SUDAN

AL-AYYAM Reviews Role of Mining in Economy

45040130b Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic
25 Apr 88 p 5

[Article by Muhammad al-Shaykh Husayn]

[Excerpts] Sometimes, a man might choose, if he wants, to talk about mining, which is a missing element—if not totally absent—in the Sudanese economy. It inspires amazement that the prevailing theory is that the Sudan is a country of many resources, one which has been provided with many minerals concerning whose economic importance there is no room for dispute. However, in spite of that, the optimum use of or adequate attention to mining has not yet occupied the status which is in keeping with its economic feasibility, and the discussion of this could go on at length.

However, people of science consider that minerals, in spite of their extreme importance, are non-renewable materials, and their use is governed by technical rules, material resources, and other considerations which are adopted when the government's mining policy is drawn up.

Because of the importance of mineral resources in the economic and social areas, the government of the Sudan has considered all minerals to be owned by the government and has decided that exploitation of these minerals will take place only under the government's direct supervision.

0.1 Percent of the National Income

In spite of the ancient history of both the mining sector itself and official interest in benefitting from this sector's resources, actual conditions—according to the papers which were presented at the workshop on the role of mining in the domestic economy in the second half of last February—underline mining activity and its results, since the Sudan's exports of mineral ores did not exceed \$2.5 million in the best years of production, and the share of the mining sector's contribution to domestic income did not exceed 0.1 percent.

Most of the studies which have dealt with this issue have theorized that the gap between the paucity of the minerals exploited in comparison with the volume of minerals that have been discovered—not to speak of the suspension or unsure nature of mining activity at times—was a logical result of the presence of some political, economic, financial, and technical obstacles, in addition to the administrative and financial obstacles which have prevented the optimum exploitation of these massive mineral resources. A series of official studies then took place to study this situation, and the economic research department in the Ministry of Finance prepared a detailed study on the production and marketing of important minerals in the Sudan.

The study concerned itself with mining in regard to chrome ores, gypsum, and gold.

One Million Tons of Chrome

The study appraised the chrome reserves in the Ingessana Hills at about 1 million tons. Mining of these reserves began in 1964, and the Sudanese mining organization took charge of the business in 1970. The organization owns six underground mines and four mines above ground. The former six mines work during the year, while work in the latter four is restricted to the period from November to May.

The machinery used in the mining is considered very backward, which results in the workers taking great pains. The yield from their production is meager. In addition to that, some of the light electric machinery which the organization has imported has not started to work yet, because of the lack of workers who are trained to use it!

A reading of the statistics on production in the chrome mines in Ingessana shows that production continued to record a perceptible increase during the period 1970-1975 but declined starting in 1975 and dropped in the 1986-87 season, coming to 10,700 tons as compared with 23,500 tons in the 1979-80 season.

The study stated that the fluctuations in production can be attributed to a number of obstacles embodied in the lack of continuous availability of local production inputs, the harsh manual labor, the backwardness of the equipment, and severe work circumstances, alongside a paucity and at times absence of services and the difficulty in modernizing the chrome mines and their equipment.

24 Million Tons of Gypsum

In the Khurayt region, which is 75 km north of Port Sudan, there is the best type of gypsum in the world. There the concentration of gypsum ranges from 85 to 89

percent. The discovered reserves in this region are estimated at 24 million tons. The Sudanese mining organization owns 18 percent of this area, while the private sector owns 82 percent.

Since the organization embarked on gypsum production in 1973, its statistics have recorded an increase in production, especially following the transfer of the mica production project's equipment and machinery from the partner following the suspension of production. Annual production comes to 11,500 tons; this production is considered paltry in comparison with the volume of reserves discovered.

It was stated in the study that the obstacles in gypsum ore production are embodied in the high cost per ton in the organization compared with the private sector, which puts the organization in a marketing position which is subordinate to the private sector.

The obstacles also include the tightness of the local market and the absence of serious attempts to seek foreign markets, especially in neighboring countries. This situation has led to a failure to risk increasing production failing to provide adequate markets.

There is the problem of seasonal labor which the customs and traditions of the people of the area dictate.

The study described the private sector's plans concerning the production of gypsum as mere information set down in official ledgers without anything in there to corroborate it. On top of that, the private sector in this area does not carry out production activities worth mentioning, and most times people with permits abstain from initiating investments, in the hope of reaching an agreement with a foreign partner in exchange for a fixed profit.

The study referred to the absence of government oversight of private sector operations, in which modest activity is carried out in a very primitive manner without equipment, engineers, or geologists.

Gold Is the Optimum

Most gold production is concentrated in the Jubayt al-Ma'adin area. The British firm Minex is the primary producer. Work began in 1982 with exploration and test production activities. Production then began officially on 3 November 1987. The company engages in production in participation with the Sudanese government, which has 51 percent of the shares, and the British parent company—of which Minex is a subsidiary—the (Qaristush) firm, finances all the operations, although the government of the Sudan pays the debts that it incurs from the revenues from sales.

The government of the Sudan has obtained an easy-term loan from the European investment bank to finance the government's share in the subsequent stages of the project.

The agreement signed by the Sudan and the company has stipulated the allocation of 40 percent of net profits as a deduction to pay back the cost of the project, which comes to 8 million pounds sterling. The rest will be broken down 51 percent for the Sudan and 49 percent for the company, in addition to tax exemptions which have been granted to the company for a period of 5 years.

In production, which goes on throughout the year, the Minex company uses very advanced technology, and it is expected that production will come to 26,000 ounces of gold a year, which will be extracted from 80,000 tons of ore.

The study expects that production will continue for 15 years at least, on the basis of the magnitude of the reserves discovered.

Conclusion

Concerning mining in the Sudan, following this brief review of its failures, obstacles, and expectations, will we insist that it still is a nonexistent dimension in the development of the Sudanese economy? Perhaps the reason is the absence of adequate data showing the volume of production and reserves in most cases, and the mediocre level of confirmation as far as the processes of quantitative evaluation go. These are issues which the anticipated four-part program must deal with, and that is another topic.

11887

SYRIA

Export of Cotton to Greece, England

44000122 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
12 Jun 88 p 4

[Text] Within the coming few days, the Public Authority for Ginning and Marketing Cotton at Al-Ladhiqiyah branch, will export 1000 tons of cotton to Greece. The 'Maria M' ship was hired by the buyer. Also, 500 tons of cotton lint were shipped to England.

TUNISIA

President Decides on National Water Resources Plan

Adviser to Presidential Office

45190058a Tunis LE RENOUVEAU in French
1 May 88 p 4

[Text] Yesterday morning, the chief of state presided over an interministerial meeting at the palace in Carthage devoted to an examination of water resources in light of a report that had been prepared on this subject. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

In view of the high priority given this matter because of its effects on both the economic and social sectors, particularly on agricultural development, and also in view of strengthening even more this vital sector, the following was decided on:

1. Undertake an exhaustive study of the country's water needs after the year 2000 in order to be able to draw up suitable plans to meet these needs.
2. Work toward the completion of remaining dam projects in order to fully exploit our surface water resources and to see to it that this effort goes hand in hand with efforts to maintain spillways by undertaking projects to protect both water and soil for the purpose of prolonging the length of the dams' exploitation.
3. Take necessary practical measures to have farmers rationalize the farming of irrigated areas.
4. Outfit as quickly as possible existing wells and those in a position to be so outfitted.

The president of the republic stressed the need to exploit all deep drillings and to take necessary measures to outfit these drillings; both those already in existence as well as those that will be drilled in the future.

It was also decided that the position of advisor to the president of the republic on water and energy be established. His mission will be to draw up a long-term plan in these two areas in collaboration with all state authorities.

Sixteen New Dams Planned

45190058a Tunis LE RENOUVEAU in French
1 May 88 p 4

[Text] It must be pointed out that since the time of independence water has had a high place in the country's overall development policy. And for good reason.

Because of the country's adverse weather conditions the water problem has constituted one of the major preoccupations of government officials on the highest level.

To knowingly utilize and exploit the country's water resources, three major plans have been drawn up; one deals with waters in the northern part of the country, one in the central region and one in the southern region. These plans, in conformity with economic development plans, determine the water resources to be mobilized, dams to be built and regions to be served.

Therefore, Tunisia's overall water policy is known and defined. Thanks to this policy, dam building plans up to the year 2006 have been drawn up.

According to these plans, 16 dams will be built between now and 2006 that will permit the mobilization of 1.1 billion cubic meters of water that will be added to the already available 1.5 billion cubic meters.

With regard to special operations to be undertaken during the periods of drought, the authorities have perfected a national operations plan which, while adhering to the needs and expectations of development plans, would permit alleviating the severity of every crisis. Within this context it will be a matter of accomplishing the following:

1. Take a census of those regions susceptible of being affected by drought.
2. Make an inventory of available water resources in these regions and existing water collection dams or those technically and economically feasible.
3. Plan for the building of dams capable of mobilizing these resources.
4. Review dam volume exploitation plans in order to optimize even more the use of resources mobilized.

It should, nevertheless, be pointed out that quite sizable reserves exist behind the dams and, therefore, could serve as a water supplement if need be. In order to accomplish this it is necessary to plan this supplementary exploitation in a balanced manner.

5671/08309

Chamber of Deputies Studies Constitutional Reform Bill

Amendments Reviewed

45190057a *Tunis LA PRESSE in French 31 Mar 88 p 5*

[Text] A special meeting of the Chamber of Deputies was called yesterday morning at the Palace of Bardo to debate the first reading of the report of the Parliamentary Constitutional Reform Commission.

The meeting was chaired by Rachid Sfar, the president of the Chamber, and attended by government members headed by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. Dr Ham-mouda Ben Slama, the reporter of the Commission, read the Commission's report on the constitutional reform bill at the beginning of the meeting.

At the beginning of the debate, 35 deputies asked to speak, which, according to Rachid Sfar, is a record number of speakers as compared to previous amend-ments.

During its 8 March meeting, the Chamber of Deputies had passed the principle of constitutional amendments and the reform bill was then submitted by the prime minister.

The report of the Constitutional Reform Commission was read at the beginning of the meeting. It specifies that constitutional reform had become necessary for several reasons, such as: the opportunity to rid it of some articles

passed over the past few years which distorted the coherence and impartial meaning of the original text; to amend some of its articles in order to guarantee the stability and continuity of the state and its institutions; and to encourage within constitutional institutions the participation of all its political, intellectual and youth groups in the political and social life of the country.

Discontinuance of the Lifetime Presidency

The report then mentioned the most important amend-ments proposed in the text of the Constitution pertaining to Articles 21, 28, 39, 40, 57, 60, 62 and 63, and it explains the reasons which motivated these amend-ments.

The first proposed amendment concerns Article 21 and it stipulates lowering from 28 to 25 the age required for running as a candidate for the Chamber of Deputies, which is being done to give young people a greater opportunity to become part of the state's structures.

Article 28 proposes different formulas for the passing of laws by the Chamber of Deputies, based on the nature of these laws and taking into account the direction of the new leadership in the matter of the successful implemen-tation of the principle of political pluralism. It has been proposed that basic and ordinary laws be passed by an absolute majority of the Chamber members in order not to hinder the legislative process, whereas passing consti-tutional laws would require a two-third majority.

In addition, the amendment deletes the last paragraph of Article 39 by virtue of which the lifetime presidency of the republic is given to the former president.

Cases of Vacancies of Power

The same amendment also includes the third paragraph of said article, which sets the possibility of running for the presidency of the republic at only two, instead of three, consecutive terms, as stipulated in the old article. It also requires that the candidate be of Tunisian nation-ality, to the exclusion of any other; his father's, mother's, grandfather's and grandmother's Tunisian nationality be authenticated. He must belong to the Islamic religion and be no less than 40 and no more than 70 years old.

Commission for the Verification of Candidacies Without the Ministry of Justice

As for the ad hoc commission for the verification of candidacies to the presidency of the republic and the announcement of election results, the amended text proposes that it include:

As chairman of the Commission, the president of the Chamber of Deputies; and

As members: the minister of justice, the president of the Constitutional Council, the mufti of the republic, the first president of the Supreme Court of Appeal and the first president of the Administrative Court.

The prime minister attended the discussion of the reform bill on Monday night, at which time the membership of the minister of justice in the Verification Commission was canceled, as proposed by the Constitutional Reform Commission, taking into account the fact that the minister of justice represents the executive power.

Among the proposed provisions to be introduced in Article 57, pertaining to cases of vacancy, are listed the discontinuance of the automatic succession, and the interim attribution of the president of the republic's duties to the president of the Chamber of Deputies, for a period of 45 to 60 days to be used to set up the election of a new president of the republic.

The interim president will not be allowed either to submit his candidacy, have recourse to a referendum, end the duties of the government, or dissolve the Chamber of Deputies. Neither will he be able to have recourse to the special provisions called for in Article 46 of the Constitution, this being done in order to guarantee the normal transfer of presidential power.

Disagreement Between the Executive and the Legislative

In the case of a disagreement between the executive and the legislative, the reform bill proposes to maintain the motion of censure and to delete the paragraphs pertaining to the president of the republic's resignation and its aftermath.

In case of a vote for a motion of censure, the text of the reform bill proposes to give the chief of state, as arbitrator, the freedom of either accepting the resignation of the government, or of dissolving the Chamber of Deputies.

By virtue of Articles 62 and 63, it is now possible for the Chamber of Deputies to play an important role in controlling governmental action, for, in that matter, its prerogatives are no longer limited to controlling the government in the implementation of the policy set by the president of the republic, but they also authorize it to table a motion of censure each and every time it ascertains that governmental policy does not serve the highest interest of the country.

Interim Measures

The reform bill also calls for interim measures which give President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali legislative and constitutional tools authorizing him, should the need arise or the highest interests of the country demand it, to

choose to organize at a suitable time simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections, or early elections, either presidential or solely parliamentary, before the expiration of the actual mandate and by 1990 at the latest.

Revision of the Electoral Code

The report of the Constitutional Reform Commission also contains certain recommendations and observations bearing on the need to revise the Electoral Code and the internal regulations of the Chamber of Deputies, in some of its articles, with a view to achieving a better harmonization with the constitutional reform bill; make the Commission for the Verification of Candidacies qualified to review and settle litigious cases concerning parliamentary and presidential elections; and change the name of the Chamber of Deputies to that of the People's Assembly.

These observations emphasize the need to mention clearly in the text of the Constitution that Tunisia is an Arab country and to lower the age of a candidate running in municipal elections, as proposed for parliamentary elections.

Secret and Direct Ballot

After the report was read, 35 deputies requested the right to speak in order to discuss the bill, bringing President of the Chamber Rachid Sfar to remark that such a number had never before been recorded for discussion of a constitutional reform bill by the Chamber.

The 14 deputies who had spoken during the morning meeting were unanimous in emphasizing the meaning of the bill and the scope of the reform operation, asserting that it was the most important political gain achieved by the new era, in accordance with the promise made uncompromisingly by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in his statement of 7 November.

They stressed that this reform is taking place in order to sanction, through elections by secret and direct ballot, the respect of the principle of the people's sovereignty in the delegation of authority; to watch over the safeguard of the nature of the republican regime and the stability of the state at the top of the hierarchy; and to allow the Chamber of Deputies to control the government.

The speakers indicated that the initiative of the new era leadership in revising the Constitution and amending some of its articles is of a nature to consolidate the excellent political credit enjoyed by said leadership and to strengthen the credibility of the regime as well as the legitimate state and its institutions.

Tunisia, an Arab Country

The speakers lauded the spirit in which the amended articles were written and which sanctions the liberal and democratic trend of the policy of the 7 November leadership, in accordance with the chief of state's statement which is thus implemented in facts.

They also expressed their satisfaction with the spirit of understanding and teamwork which presided over the debate between the executive and the legislative during the discussion of the reform bill, praising the government which took into account most of the proposals and observations of the Constitutional Reform Commission.

The deputies supported both the amendments mentioned in the reform bill and those proposed by the Commission.

Two deputies proposed to mention in the text that the wife of the candidate to the presidency of the republic must be a Tunisian and that Tunisia is an Arab nation instead of an Arab-speaking nation, this being done to assert that the country belongs to the Arab world.

With regard to the motion of censure, another deputy believes that the motion must be addressed to the government member who failed in his duties, and not to the government as a whole.

The first reading of the draft bill was unanimously passed during the afternoon session.

The second reading will take place in 3 months.

Draft Bill on Parties

45190057a Tunis LA PRESSE in French 13 Apr 88 p 3

[Passage in boldface as published]

[Text] The deputies propose:

Article 2: The parties must defend the Arab identity of the country;

Article 3: No party has the right to monopolize religion, nor to use it for political ends;

Article 9: Lower to 3 months the response time of the administration; and

a draft law making things easier for parties.

Last Monday, the Political Affairs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies studied the draft bill on parties, which was recently submitted for its consideration by the government.

After studying it, the Commission submitted written questions requesting some clarifications. These remarks concern, in particular, Article 2 pertaining to the definition of the activities of a party; Article 3, to the religious issue; and Articles 5 and 6, to democracy within the parties, and to the principles according to which they will operate. They also concern the constitutive assemblies of the parties, Article 9 setting the response time of the administration and Article 12 pertaining to party properties.

Articles 2 and 3

Article 2 states that each party must respect human rights, the republican regime and the people's sovereignty as defined by the Constitution; and the gains of the nation, particularly the Personal Status Code. The Commission of the Chambers of Deputies proposes to add that parties must defend the Arab identity of the country.

With regard to Article 3, which stipulates that no party has the right to refer in its principles, goals, action, or program to either religion, language, or race, the Commission proposes to change the word "refer" to another term meaning that **said party cannot monopolize religion nor use it for political ends.**

Democratic Bases

Article 5 stipulates that each party must be founded on democratic bases and its by-laws must therefore conform to democratic principles.

The Political Commission mentions that said article does not specify the measures to be taken in order to guarantee the respect for democracy in the party by-laws. As for Article 6 of the draft bill, it stipulates that each party must have principles, goals and programs different for each party. The Commission proposes to specify that these programs, principles and goals must be different for each recognized or legally organized party.

The Commission also informed the government that the draft bill lacked legislation which would set a limited time for putting a dossier together and holding the constitutive assemblies of the parties.

Response Time

Article 9 gives the administration 4 months from the date the dossier was submitted in which to respond to a request to organize. After that time, the silence of the administration would be considered as an affirmative answer to the request.

The Political Commission proposes to the government to shorten this period to only 3 months. It also requests additional information on the repressive measures to be taken against a party financed from outside sources.

Tax Facilities for the Parties

Besides this draft bill on parties, the government recently submitted to the Chamber of Deputies a draft bill aimed at granting tax facilities to the parties, thus reducing their expenses.

This draft bill, which only includes one article, makes it possible to exempt political parties from the tax on the transfer of real estate through sale, gift or exchange. It also gives to said parties the right to record, at a fixed tax, contracts needed for their activities and pertaining to properties.

6857

Supplementary Budget Bill

45190058b Tunis *LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE* in French
30 Apr 88 pp 1, 3

[Text] A supplementary budget bill for 1988 will be examined shortly by the council of ministers before being submitted to the Chamber of Deputies.

Our newspaper, which was the first to announce this, will now exclusively describe to you its broad outline.

Made necessary because of the adverse weather conditions in the country, this bill will, nevertheless, not have to seek recourse to new tax measures. The funds will essentially come from national resources, while recourse to a day's work donation could be considered if that should become necessary.

The 1988 budget, it should be pointed out, provides for a 2.5 percent rate increase.

The particularly adverse weather conditions, namely the drought, will result in this average rate not being realized. The persistence of the drought in our country has resulted in insufficiencies both as regards agriculture as well as employment.

The 9.4 million dinar appropriation to support efforts to create jobs, to drill deep and surface wells and to provide certain regions with water supplies has proved to be insufficient to confront the harmful effects of the drought.

The situation was further complicated by the grasshopper invasion. Hence, the need was felt to obtain new resources, something that could only be accomplished through the supplementary budget bill.

In this connection, an overall 25 million dinar appropriation will be raised. These new resources will essentially be used to consolidate and promote employment, to make use of water resources and protect livestock.

It has been pointed out that employment will take the lion's share of the appropriation, namely 16 million

dinars that will be assigned to specific programs that should result in the creation of 6 million working days in all regions of the country.

The resources that are being sought for this supplementary budget bill will be of Tunisian origin.

Thus, 15 million dinars will come from a contribution in the context of national solidarity and from an updating of foreign and domestic loan resources.

For the remainder, resources will be mobilized from foreign grants (5 million dinars) and possible recourse to a working day donation, a formula that should once again forge a spirit of national solidarity at this difficult time.

It should finally be pointed out that this supplementary bill, which will be submitted shortly to the Chamber of Deputies, does not involve any new tax measures.

5671/08309

Amendment to Associations Law in Progress

45190058c Tunis *LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE* in French
30 Apr 88 pp 1, 3

[Text] The associations law amendment is on the right track. The sections that require revision have already been identified. Specifically, these are Articles 4, 24 and 25, which concern the establishment of an association, suspension of its activities or simply its dissolution.

The amendment to this law comes on the instructions of the chief of state who held an interministerial meeting on this matter last Wednesday. The amendment essentially aims at limiting the government's discretionary power. According to the 1959 law, the latter had full power to refuse or agree to the establishment of associations.

The minister of interior will be obligated to answer either negatively or affirmatively and there would also be a possibility of recourse to the courts against the government's decision.

As for an association's dissolution or suspension, they will no longer come under the jurisdiction of the government but of the courts.

After the amendment of the constitution, whose first reading has gone through the Chamber of Deputies and after the adoption of the law dealing with the organization of political parties in Tunisia, attention is now being focused on the amendment of the 7 November 1959 law on associations.

After holding meetings the committee responsible for amending this law has already identified those points which no longer come within the spirit of the new era.

The first point concerns Article 4 of this law relative to the establishment of associations that stipulates in its present form that "an association can legally exist only after certification of its statutes by the 'secretary of state

for interior' (presently the minister of interior). Silence on the part of the government for a period of 4 months after the deposition of the statutes is equivalent to a refusal of certification. The secretary of state for interior has discretionary power to grant or to refuse certification."

As with the law on parties, the amendment would consist in limiting the "discretionary power" granted by the current text of the law to the minister of interior, while maintaining the 4-month time limit (considered normal from an administrative point of view), the amendment would consist in obliging the minister of interior to answer any request for setting up an association either affirmatively or negatively and to permit recourse to the courts against the government's decision.

The second amendment concerns measures dealing with the dissolution of an association and sanctions as described in Articles 24 and 25.

In its present form, Article 24 stipulates that "provisional dissolution can be pronounced on the demand of the public ministry for a determined period of time that shall not exceed the definitive decision of the criminal court judges. The decision will be carried out provisionally."

Already at this stage confusion is noted between "dissolution," that cannot be for a determined period of time, and simple "suspension."

Article 25 stipulates that "any association whose real aim, action and activities are shown to be contrary to public order and proper morals will be dissolved by decree of the secretary of state for interior."

The amendment would aim at leaving the responsibility to the courts to judge on the appropriateness of dissolving an association or of suspending its activities for a determined period of time. The question, therefore, will come under the jurisdiction of the courts of first instance, while, at the same time, granting the possibility of recourse.

5671/08309

Student Delegates Sign Cooperation Agreement
45190057b Tunis LE TEMPS in French 5 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] At the end of the official visit to Tunisia of the delegation of the General Congress of Libyan Students, an agreement was signed between the Organization of Constitutional Democratic Students and the General Congress of Libyan Students. The ceremony took place on Saturday at the headquarters of the coordination committee.

This document emphasizes in particular that the visit of the Libyan delegation is in keeping with the steps taken in Tripoli during the first week of March 1988 to strengthen bilateral relations and encourage contacts between the two parties.

Convinced of the common destiny of the Arab nation and convinced that the building of the great Maghreb contributes to the realization of this goal, the two parties, by virtue of this agreement, have decided among other things:

To organize the first conference of Maghrebian students at Bir El Bey, in Tunis, during the first week of August; the two parties agreed to invite Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania to the event;

To exchange university registration and scholarships beginning with the 1988-89 university term;

To exchange delegations for student meetings during the summer holidays;

To organize cultural student weeks and scientific workshops in both countries;

To exchange delegations between the two organizations on the occasion of national holidays; and

To exchange publications between the two organizations.

6857

BANGLADESH

Ershad Leadership Critically Examined
46070005 Calcutta ANNANDA BAZAR PATRIKA
(Supplement) in Bengali 20 Jan 88 pp 1-2

[Text] Hossain Mohammad Ershad often says that the supreme power should be with the masses. He says it openly, and not by hints or by indirect references. Although he has been the Chief Martial Law Administrator of his country, he has repeatedly said that his main objective is to establish democracy. Article Seven of the Constitution of Bangladesh has the same objective. Just to prove that he is really in favor of establishing democracy, Ershad has even discarded his military uniform. However, in spite of all that, democracy has not been established in Bangladesh. Power has not been transferred to the people. Independent Bangladesh is now 16 years old. Ershad has been in power during the past 6 years. No head of state in Bangladesh has remained in power for such a length of time, and this even in the face of such opposition. This certainly is a mark of his success. However, in spite of his repeated promises, he could not establish democratic structure in the country. He could not make his own party, National Party, acceptable to the masses as a genuine democratic party. Consequently, he had to adopt vote fraud to win the election. Here lies Mr Ershad's greatest failure. But why this failure?

Part of the answer to this question can be found in the statement of Sheikh Hasina Wazid, leader of the Awami League. At an interview she said that in fact this is a military democracy, and its controls are inside the military cantonment. "If the military is allowed to be involved in politics then I should also be allowed to hold public meetings inside the cantonments. The secret ballot should determine who has the majority even inside the cantonment."

Therein lies the truth. Ershad on one hand speaks about democracy, and on the other hand reminds people that the military has some role to play in the administration of the government. The leaders in the Government often try to explain that in order to make democracy strong in the country, the military must be involved. And, with this objective in mind, Mr Ershad proposed the controversial National Council Bill at the National Assembly. In this bill it was proposed that military officers should become members of all national councils. However, faced with strong opposition, Mr Ershad finally refrained from implementing the provisions of the bill. That bill created so much turmoil in Bangladesh that it gave rise to the "Remove Ershad" movement.

Some of the activities of President Ershad raises doubts in the minds of the people. Is he really interested in establishing democracy? If so, then why during his own administration was martial law imposed for the longest period of time—57 weeks? Though he has removed himself from the military why does he still live in the

military quarters of Dhaka Cantonment? Though the ministry has been formed of non-military persons, why is the country being run by the military officers? Why does Ershad repeatedly say that the military must have some role in the administration of the country? Why does Ershad have more confidence in the military than any of his political colleagues? Why has it not been possible for him to establish an effective political party even after all this time?

Ershad tried hard to build up a political party, but failed. Just like his predecessor General Ziaur Rahmad who, soon after coming to power formed the Peoples' Party, People's Front and finally Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Ershad tried to follow the same track. Ershad has used the military, civilian intelligence department, his administration, and other national privileges more than Zia did. The main reason for his failure has been his lack of personal popularity. He had no role in the freedom struggle of '71. In addition to that, no sooner than he came to power, he faced the unified opposition of the people.

Having captured power on 24 March 1982, Ershad started forming his party at the end of 1983. Under the direct supervision of Major General Mahmudul Hassan, then the head of DGIF, the Department of Military Intelligence, and under the guise of a non-political organization, "the 18 item normalization Council" came into being. General Ershad proclaimed the 18 point plan of action to improve the country's socio-economic condition. But this Council was not able to have any impact on the minds of the people. On 27 November 1983, the first party of the Government made its appearance with the then president, Chief Justice Ahsanuddin Choudhury. The chief architects of this party were the Principal Staff Officer of the Chief Martial Law Administrator General Ershad, Major General Nazirul Aziz Chisti and Major General Mahmudul Hassan. On 12 December 1983, Chief Justice Ahsanuddin Choudhury was removed from the position of the president, and General Ershad himself assumed the position of the president. At that time Chief Justice Ahsan Choudhury also removed himself from the activities of the Peoples' Party. Current Prime Minister Mr Mizanur Choudhury was made the acting chairman of the party. However, Ershad himself remained the unannounced de-facto chairman, and kept on pulling the strings. He was even able to gather in defecting members, including Mr Ataur Rahman, one of the leaders of the opposition party, to join his party. Under the auspices of the direct involvement of the government, and under the leadership of Mr Ataur Rahman, a national coalition of 11 parties was formed. Mr Ataur Rahman Khan became the prime minister. Captain Halim of B.N.P., Korban Ali of Awami League was also lured away by offering him a ministerial position. But even then the Peoples' Party never became effective. So new endeavors were started. Under the leadership of the ex-prime minister, Shah Azizur Rahman, a five party pro-government front was formed. Its name was National Front. On 1 January 1985, the Front

became extinct and gave birth to the current pro-administration Jatiyo Party. Major General Abdul Latif, the present Chief Director of the country's most influential intelligence organization, D.G.F.I. played the most important role in the formation of this party. At this stage, Ataur Rahaman Khan and Shah Aziz could not stay any longer—they were removed. They were removed in the normal course of affairs. All military administrations follow the tactic of "take-in and throw-out" principle; they use people when needed, then discard them like waste paper. The first president of the Jatiyo Party, Professor Matin is currently the deputy prime minister. In order to strengthen the Jatiyo Party, pressure was put on the chairmen and commissioners of all cities, including Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna to join the Jatiyo Party. In this respect, Major General Mahmudul Hassan, then mayor of Dhaka played a very significant role. Then came the general election of 7 May 1986. This election proved that the Jatiyo Party was not able to attract public support, and could not develop into a political party. The situation has not changed very much since then. The Jatiyo Party never became popular, nor strong.

Since Ershad could not keep the military detached from the administrative process, and could not establish an effective political party in 6 years, why does he repeatedly talk about establishing democracy? Why doesn't he want to rule the country as a military officer, and under total military rule?

In fact, Ershad realizes that the population of Bangladesh does not have much liking for the military uniform. They believe the task of the military is to protect the country's borders, and help bring relief in times of natural disasters. They have no right to enter the chambers of the government ministers. In the words of Mr Obaidur Rahaman, the president of B.N.P., "...we would like everyone to mind his own business. Let the military perform the tasks of the military. Let us politicians do our own jobs. If anyone from the military would like to enter politics, he must resign from the military first. We will not allow anyone to play the role of a politician by the strength of his military position." Ershad knows that these are not the words of Obaidur Rahaman alone, these are the expressions of the entire population of Bangladesh. He realizes the fact that it is not possible to hold on to the administration by military means. He must have public acceptance. He needs the cover of democracy.

Of course, in this regard, the wishes of foreign powers cannot be ignored either. In fact, there is plenty of proof indicating that the United States is eager to retain Ershad in power. No one solicited their advice, yet the American Government has volunteered advice concerning solving the current crisis in Bangladesh. The American Ambassador in Dhaka has met with Ershad, and also with Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khalida Zia, the two leaders of the opposition. He has suggested ways for a compromise settlement. For this very reason, almost

everyone has termed this unsolicited advice as an intervention into the internal affairs of the country by a foreign power. However, that did not stop the American Government. It has been reported that they have cautioned Ershad that if Martial Law is imposed once again, American assistance will be stopped. Mr Ershad does not have the strength to ignore American pressure. Consequently, one clear question comes to the surface, is this camouflage of democracy primarily to placate the United States?

12195/9604

INDIA

Dilemma of Congress Chief Ministers

46070010 Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA
(supplement) in Bengali 2 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Under Rajiv Gandhi's prime ministership, the state chief ministers' positions have become quite insecure. Whoever takes up the position has to undergo the same phase of insecurity. In the beginning of the year, within a short time, three chief ministers were relegated to other positions by Rajiv Gandhi. Hardev Joshi of Rajasthan, Bindeshwari Dubey of Bihar, and Moti Lal Vohra of Madhya Pradesh, were all shifted to remote posts in the country. If one of the higher ups in the capital is to be believed, there is a rumor that the chief ministers of the states of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, all run by Congress I, are about to be removed. These chief ministers have only been able to get the removal postponed for the time being. Within the short period of a couple of months, several chief ministers have been forced to abdicate. Apparently, there does not seem to be good reason for this kind of deposition. There might be some reasons behind all this, but at least there were no definite plans for making these changes. For example, Basant Dada Patil resigned from the chief ministership when he was offended in the prime minister's office. Arjun Singh was removed from the chief ministership of Madhya Pradesh just 24 hours after he was elected leader of the state legislative party. He was dispatched to Punjab as governor. Hiteshwar Saikia was moved to Assam and Lalthanvala was shifted to Mizoram after consultations with the regional parties. There is also the instance of Hardev Joshi of Rajasthan. Hardev annoyed the prime minister when he was busy in a secret meeting with his top advisors at the Tiger Reserve Forest at Sariskar.

Apparently, there are no definite criteria for getting replacements for these deposed chief ministers. Hardev was replaced by Shiv Charan Mathur in Rajasthan. Just one year earlier, Mr Mathur was deposed because of allegations of atrocities. In spite of having no support from the masses and no popularity in the state, Bhagwat Jha Azad was nominated leader replacing Dubey in Bihar. Again, when Arjun Singh was able to patch up with the central leadership he was sent back to his previous position in Madhya Pradesh.

Thus far we have become accustomed to Rajiv Gandhi's habit of making these kinds of changes. According to one expert's opinion formed on the basis of observing his policy of making changes at the central cabinet level as well as at the state chief minister's level, Rajiv Gandhi has no ability to do the job right. He works with an unusual tendency to make quick changes. If we analyze all the incidences quoted above in the light of his tendency to make frequent changes, we find that right after 1984, when he came to power following the general elections, he has appointed all the abovementioned chief ministers one by one and deposed them one by one. It was unfortunate that the first chief minister who was deposed by Rajiv Gandhi was Shiv Charan Mathur of Rajasthan. But, later, in the end, he was elected as chief minister in the same state. Just a few days before the March assembly election there was a tremendous antagonism between Delhi and Mathur. This was because of the shooting of the local Rajput chief Mansingh by the police. In order to secure Rajasthan's ballot box the prime minister forced Mathur to resign immediately. It happened just two weeks before the election. He was replaced by Hira Lal Devpur, who had no standing in politics. Devpur got little time to administer as a chief minister. As soon as the election was over he was removed. He was replaced by the experienced politician Hardev Joshi. In the same month two more chief ministers lost their jobs. Chadrashekhhar Singh of Bihar was nominated as a cabinet minister in Delhi and Bindeshwari Dubey was installed in his position. He was done in order to calm down the powerful Brahmin lobby of Jagannath Mishra. The other chief minister who was transferred in March, right after the assembly elections, was Arjun Singh. The circumstances were very different. Up to that point, he was regarded as the most powerful and successful Congress chief minister. Singh came to Delhi to consult the prime minister in regard to organizing the state cabinet after his election as the chief minister. He was very much surprised at what he heard from Rajiv. The unruly Akali group was going to take part in a peace effort, and Arjun Singh was chosen to be governor in order to provide leadership. Needless to say that the powerful chief minister from Madhya Pradesh did not want to leave his state especially when he was successful in his election. However, who cared about his likes and dislikes? Moti Lal Vohra, who had not enough experience in politics replaced Singh. After three months, another powerful regional political leader was victimized, and that was Dada Basant Patil of Maharashtra. Dada Patil had dominated the Maharashtra political scene for more than a decade. Even that kind of person was insulted by the Delhi high command. Many of the candidates selected by Dada Patil for the 1985 assembly election were not accepted. The controversy reached its peak in June 1985. The high command wanted the election of Mrs Prabha Rao as the speaker of Maharashtra Assembly against the chief minister's will. Dada had to rush to Delhi at the high command's behest. He was told in Delhi that the speaker had to be Prabha Rao. Surprisingly, the prime minister himself did not communicate the matter to him. He was informed about

it by Makhan Lal Fotedar, a confidant of Rajiv. The strong man of Maharashtra got very angry. He immediately wrote a letter of resignation and handed it over to Fotedar. Right after this, he left the prime minister's office and went to Maharashtra Sadan at Sulak. In the meantime Rajiv Gandhi gave it a second thought. Perhaps the chief minister had overreacted. Arjun Singh was sent as an emissary to pacify Patil. But it did not work. The chief minister did not want to withdraw his resignation. Finally there was an agreement. Dada Patil agreed to the appointment of the politically inexperienced Shivaji Rao Nilangekar as the next chief minister of Maharashtra. In the end, Dada Patil was appointed Governor of Rajasthan.

Just the next month, a very influential regional political leader, Madhav Singh Solanki of Gujarat, was deposed. The reason was that Solanki had failed to control the agitation against job reservation policy of the government. Solanki had tried to increase the number of reserved jobs in colleges and government services for the scheduled castes. This attempt on his part had generated a statewide agitation. Any way, politically weak Amar Singh Chaudhury was put in place of Solanki.

Narayan Dutt Tiwari, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, was appointed as a cabinet minister in Delhi in September 1985 and Bir Bahadur Singh was put in charge of the vastly populated and problematic state of Uttar Pradesh. The only qualification of Bir Bahadur was that he was able to develop intimacy with the then political leader in Delhi, Arun Nehru.

One of the political objectives of Rajiv Gandhi is to achieve regional harmony. In order to fulfill his objective some of the chief ministers had to move in quite a number of states. Saikia in Assam, Lalthanvala in Mizoram, and Bhajan Lal of Haryana are examples. It was thought for Bhajan Lal that he would be an impediment in the fulfillment of agreements made with Punjab, especially with respect to distribution of water from the rivers common to both the states and also with respect to the questionable division of some areas between the two states. Within a fortnight, the ex-politician Bansi Lal was recalled and made chief minister of Haryana. Another chief minister had to move out in 1986. He was Shivaji Rao Nilangekar of Maharashtra. Chandrulekha, the daughter of Maharashtra chief minister, was alleged to have passed her examination by cheating. When there was an uproar and bitter criticism in regard to this, the central Home Minister S. B. Chavan was transferred to replace Nilangekar. Dada Patil and the group opposed to Chavan tried their best to resist this appointment but they could not succeed. The year 1987 had been a year of inactivity in regard to depositions and replacements of state chief ministers. Last year no changes were made in any state. This year (i.e. 1988), Rajiv Gandhi became active again from the very beginning. Within the first 2 months he compensated for the inactivity of the previous year. There have already been changes in three states. It seems that Bir Bahadur Singh of Uttar Pradesh,

Amar Singh of Gujarat, and S. B. Chavan of Maharashtra are in bad shape. They might be deposed any moment. Changing the chief ministers in order to resist the building of any power base by them has been a tendency of Rajiv Gandhi in the past. There is a history behind this tendency of his. Rajiv Gandhi's mother, his predecessor Mrs Indira Gandhi, was first to play the game of changing chief ministers in order to suppress their powers at the regional level. Later, this tendency became an integral part of Delhi's power politics. After independence, during the first two decades, the chief ministers were politically very powerful. None of the prime ministers had the power to depose the chief ministers as per their wishes. Bidhan Chandra Roy of Bengal, Kamraj of Tamilnadu, S. K. Singh of Bihar, G. B. Pant of Uttar Pradesh, Sanjeeva Reddy of Andhra Pradesh, Nijlingappa of Mysore, Pratap Singh Kairon of Punjab, and Biju Pattanyak of Orissa were some of the chief ministers of that time. In their own states, their influence and power was tremendous. That is why they remained in power for a long time. Those glorious days of chief ministers are now gone. The task, taken up by Mrs Gandhi after the division of Congress in 1969, of suppressing the power of old leaders is going to be completed by her son Rajiv Gandhi. The chief minister's position in Congress-ruled states is very fragile. The chief ministers have become slaves of the high command. There have been quiet and perilous changes in the chief minister's position. The center of local power now lost its past glory. In none of the states is the chief minister's post lasting. The frequency of changes is increasing. The centers of local powers are being abolished. On the other hand, on political level, the position of the local leader is entirely dependent upon New Delhi. The chief ministers are now candidates for favors by the high command. Those who flattered were rewarded with minister's positions during the time of Sanjay Gandhi. His crazy behavior in politics augmented this kind of situation. At that time, the chief minister of Punjab, Gyani Zail Singh, once carried the suitcase of Sanjay Gandhi. Incidentally, at that time Sanjay was neither a leader nor even a common member of the Congress. During the period of emergency when Sanjay came to visit the state, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Narain Dutt Tiwari, had followed him shamelessly like a pet. He did not miss any chance to come close to the prime minister's son.

The capital has now become a place of pilgrimage for the Congress chief ministers. There is a long queue of chief ministers in front of the prime minister's office. There is a good deal of competition among them to be in the good graces of the prime minister. This is their only objective. All sorts of government meetings and communications with regard to the states take place in Delhi as a general rule. the only purpose is to get close to Rajiv Gandhi. Even after the death of Sanjay Gandhi and the entry of Rajiv Gandhi into the politics of Congress, the situation has not changed. When Rajiv Gandhi was the General Secretary of Congress he used to criticize frequent meetings of chief ministers and other MLAs in Delhi. But

after he became the prime minister, he himself is encouraging these kinds of meetings in Delhi. For instance, last year, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Bir Bahadur Singh, went to New Delhi at least 76 times. Other chief ministers also were not far behind in their visits to Delhi. On an average, each Congress chief minister is visiting Delhi twice a month. The attitude of the prime minister towards the chief ministers is very amusing. For the prime minister they are like hyperactive school boys. Sometimes he would let them stay waiting to see him, other times he would grant them an immediate interview. When the prime minister thinks that participation of a particular chief minister in any discussion may not be useful he does not agree to see him. Many times it happens that he says "no" to their face. The dignity of chief ministers has descended to such a level that they have no courage even to denounce these insults from the prime minister. On the other hand, they try to meet him again in a more energetic way; for some, this appears to be the only goal.

As a result, it is no surprise that the image of the chief ministers is being tarnished in the eyes of the local people. Recently, in many state, the Congress had to suffer tremendous reverses in bye-elections. Possibly, this is the outcome of the dangerous game the prime minister has been playing with the Congress chief ministers.

9668/9274

IRAN

Cooperation With North Korea on Various Projects

46400130d Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Apr 88 p 14

[Passage in boldface as published]

[Text] Economic service. The deputy minister of foreign trade of the Democratic Republic of Korea, who is visiting Tehran at the head of a delegation to study and expand economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with the minister of commerce yesterday. He announced readiness to cooperate in the areas of agriculture, fishing, serum production, hydrolic power plants, and ship and dock building and strongly condemned the attack by the criminal United States on the oil platforms of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf.

He said: We are always prepared to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran to fight the United States. In this meeting, he also said: As long as U.S. imperialism exists in the world, we must not expect peace.

In this meeting, the deputy minister for foreign trade of the Democratic Republic of Korea condemned Iraq's use of chemical weapons as an inhumane act contrary to international conventions.

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Mass Production of Chemical Masks Reported
46400130b Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Apr 88 p 3

[Passage in boldface as published]

[Text] Economic service.

Mass production of chemical masks begun in one of the industrial units of our country.

According to the KEYHAN economic correspondent, with the start of the production of chemical masks in the country, several million dollars in foreign currency will be saved every year.

According to this report, the domestically-produced chemical masks are of better quality, because of the high quality raw materials used.

10000

Tehran Largest Recipient of Emigrants
46400131a London KEYHAN in Persian 26 May 88 p 4

[Text] Of all the nation's urban populations in 1365 [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987], about 69 percent were born in their city of residence, 14.4 percent were emigrants from rural areas, 14.2 percent were emigrants from other cities, and 1.8 percent were emigrants born abroad.

The above statistics, based on a study conducted by the Iran Statistics Center, were recently made available to the press by the above center. Recently the Iran Statistics Center, making use of results from one percent of the families in the 1365 public census, announced that the cities in the provinces of Kordestan, Tehran and Ilam have the largest percentages of emigrants, while the highest percentages of non-emigrants are in the cities of the provinces of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari and Yazd.

A study of the composition of the nation's rural populations shows that 84.4 percent of this population was born in the village of residence, 1.8 percent immigrated from city to country, 9.5 percent immigrated from village to village, and 0.3 percent are emigrants born abroad. Based on the same report, the largest non-immigrant urban populations are found in the provinces of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari and Yazd, while the the largest immigrant urban populations are in the provinces of Kordestan, Tehran and Ilam.

Tehran Province Largest Recipient of Emigrants

The results of the Iran Statistics Center study show that the number of emigrants to urban areas in Kordestan is 5.7 times that of the emigrants from urban areas. In East Azarbaijan the figure is 3.7, and it is 3.8 in West Azarbaijan. On the other hand, in the provinces of

Khuzestan, Fars, Esfahan, Bushehr, Semnan, Yazd, Hormozgan and Tehran there are more emigrants from urban areas than from rural areas.

The Iran Statistics Center concludes from its study that the major characteristics of emigrants in the decade 1355—1365 [21 March 1976 - 20 March 1987] include a preponderance of women aged 20-29 and a higher average age for emigrants from city to city than for other kinds of emigrants.

It is necessary to note that during the last decade, concurrent with the very rapid rate of growth of Iran's population due to the high birth rate, the nation's urban population has also shown a striking increase. This increase has caused significant and unprecedented growth in the urban population compared to the rural population, for the first time in Iran. An expert on population affairs told KEYHAN's correspondent that the Islamic Republic's long war with Iraq, and especially the attacks by Iraqi forces on the Province of Khuzestan early in the war, has caused a large part of the population of this province to migrate to other residential areas, especially the large cities such as Tehran, Shiraz, Esfahan, Qom, Mashhad, Karaj and several other cities. These experts added: The inhabitants of most of the provinces along the Iraqi border, including Kordestan, Kermanshahan, Ilam va Poshtkuh, Lorestan and Khuzestan, have left their homes and houses and migrated to other parts of the country because of the dangers caused by the attacks of Iraqi forces and the continuous and relentless bombing by this nation's fighter aircraft.

2.5 Million War Refugees in Iran

Based on a study conducted by one of Iran's scientific institutions, so far the seven-year war with Iraq has caused 2.5 to three million of our nation's people to migrate to secure areas beyond the reach of Iraqi forces and war planes. Tehran's 1355 [21 March 1976 - 20 March 1977] population of four million is now more than eight million. In addition, the city of Karaj now has more than two million people. Several other Iranian cities, including Esfahan, Yazd, Qom, Shiraz, Mashhad and several other eastern cities have also seen unprecedented population growth.

Population experts believe that the flooding of Afghan refugees into Iran has also added to a striking extent to the problems caused by the migration of domestic populations.

These experts announced that the Islamic Republic has refrained from adopting a policy to centralize the Afghan refugees in one part of the country. Unlike the government of Pakistan, it has allowed these refugees to migrate to any part of the country that attracts them. One population affairs analyst believes that the flood of rural residents into the cities, which has become very extensive over the last eight years, has brought with it numerous economic, social and political problems for officials.

The rate of urban population growth shows that the intensity of this flood of rural people into the cities has no counterpart in any other country in the world. Currently about 56 percent of Iran's population of 50 million lives in cities or municipal areas. This figure was less than 29 percent in 1345 [21 March 1966 - 20 March 1967]. The unbridled growth of the urban popu

lation has brought the Islamic Republic against numerous problems, including unemployment, under-employment, crime and deviant behavior, food and housing shortages, squatters, problems procuring water and health care, and other social and political problems.

9310

Alliance for Oppressed: Biographies of Candidates Reported

46400135 Tehran *ETTELA'AT* in Persian

5 Apr 88 pp 8, 13



Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani

Born in 1313 [1934/35]; religious jurist in religious law and Islamic sciences; thorough knowledge of socio-political sciences.

One of the famous combative clerics against the tyrant's regime and global oppression.

Was jailed repeatedly and tortured many times in his struggle against the regime of the tyrant

One of the most distinguished students and supporters of the Imam and Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

Distinguished member of the Islamic Revolution Council.

Speaker of the majles during the past two legislatures.

Deputy speaker of the Assembly of Experts.

Representative of the Imam on the Supreme Council for Defense; major military planning and command.

Deliverer of sermons and analyst of the million-large Friday prayers of Tehran.

The Imam's appointed member of the assembly for determining the interests of the Islamic regime.



Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi

Born in 1316 [1937/38] to a committed clerical family. Seminary education in addition to religious jurisprudence and principles; modern education, bachelor's degree in theology and philosophy.

Brave cleric, who was jailed for an extended length of time and tortured many times in his struggle against the regime of the tyrant.

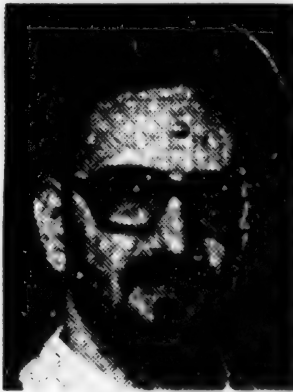
An alert cleric, who is familiar with the people's problems and is in step with the pioneers of the Islamic movement.

Distinguished, hard-working student of the Imam of the nation and his excellency, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, on all levels.

Representative of the Imam and director of the Martyr's Foundation.

Deputy speaker of the majles and representative of the majles during two legislatures.

A central figure and effective personality in "establishing the combative clerics of Tehran."



Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Do'a'i

Born in 1320 [1941/42]; seminary education in addition to religious jurisprudence seminars and principles in Najaf.

Resistant cleric and trusted companion of the Imam abroad.

Before the revolution, he was frequently pursued by the regime and SAVAK, and had to escape from Iran.

Well-known, active figure, and announcer of the voice of the clerics in the clerical movement abroad.

Spokesman for the combative clerics and liaison for the Islamic societies abroad.

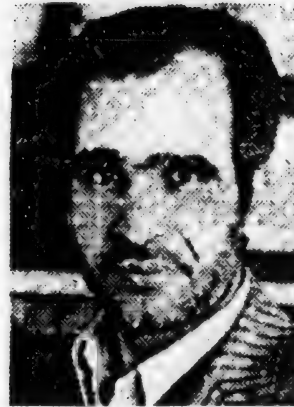
The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Iraq before the war.

Representative of the Imam and director of the ETTE-LA'AT operations.

Active member of the foreign policy committee of the majles.

Representative of the people of Tehran during two majles legislatures.

Has expertise necessary to participate in foreign policy and Islamic guidance committees.



Brother Mohammad Salamati

Born in 1325 [1946/47] in Kashmar. Graduated with a degree in economics.

Continual political and combative activities against the regime of the shah.

Arrested and jailed in 1353 [1974/75] by SAVAK and in prison until 1357 [1978/79].

Member of the decision-making council of the Muslim group and the struggles of the united people.

Cooperation with revolution institutions, such as the central committee of the Islamic revolution, the Guards Corps and the Imam's development office.

Minister of Agriculture in Cabinets of martyr Raja'i, martyr Bahonar and Engineer Musavi.

Cultural and parliamentary affairs deputy of the Ministry of Labor.

Expert in political and economic matters, with articles published in this area.

University teaching.

Possessing the expertise necessary to participate in economic and agricultural committees.



Brother Hoseyn Kamali

Born in 1332 [1953/54]. Technical high school diploma.

One of the influential figures in the workers' strikes at the height of the revolution.

In the course of the Islamic struggles, he was dismissed from the factories and jailed.

One of the original founders of the union of Islamic societies of the factories, called Khaneh-ye Kargar.

Active role in defending workers' rights and ratification of the labor law.

Representative of the majles in the first and second terms, and head of the labor committee.



Dr Mostafa Mo'in

Born in 1330 [1951/52], in Najafabad. Physician, specializing in pediatrics.

Active participation in Islamic struggles and contact with the deputy of the leader.

Arrested several times and jailed because of resistance activities.

One of the founders of the Islamic society of physicians and a servant of the oppressed.

President of Shiraz University and secretary of the university crusade of Shiraz University.

Second representative of Shiraz in the first majles and member of the higher education committee.

Representative of the Imam to the Supreme Council of the cultural revolution.

Secretary of the central council of the university crusade.

University professor and member of the board of trustees of the Teacher Training University.

Has sufficient expertise for membership in the health and higher education committees.



Dr Hoseyn Forutan

Born in 1325 [1946/47]. Internist, specialized in the digestive system, from the University of Tehran.

Active role in political struggles as a student.

Participation in Islamic and revolutionary struggles led by Imam Khomeyni.

University professor and expert in medical issues.

Author and translator of medical texts.

Director of Imam Khomeyni Hospital.

President of the University of Tehran.

Informed about higher education affairs, medical issues and national health.

Has sufficient expertise to participate in health and higher education committees.



Dr Mohammad Sa'id Taslimi

Born in 1333 [1954/55]. PhD in management and organizational development.

Beginning of cooperation with the planning committee of the cultural revolution headquarters, 1359 [1980/81].

Associate of martyr Dr Fayyazbakhsh, the minister without portfolio and director of the environmental agency.

Director general of the international relations office of the Ministry of Education during the tenure of martyr Bahonar.

Member of the faculty of the Business Administration Department of the University of Tehran.

Vice president of the Teacher Training University and vice chairman of the Political Science Department of the University of Tehran.

Deputy for financial affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Member of the supervisory and inspection committee of the Supreme Cultural Committee.

Deputy minister of culture and higher education, until he became a candidate for majles representative.

Has necessary, useful expertise to participate in culture and higher education and economic affairs and finance committees.



Sister Gowhar al-Shari'eh Dastgheyb

Born in 1314 [1935/36]. Master's degree in Arabic literature.

Active, combative and revolutionary role in cultural circles.

Educational and cultural activities; principal of Refah and 'Alavi girls' high schools.

In charge of girls' teacher training colleges after the victory of the revolution.

Representative of the people of Tehran to the first and second majles.

Clear and decisive positions in defending the rights of the oppressed.

Familiarity with cultural and social issues of women.

Familiarity with educational affairs of the young generation.

Has the necessary expertise to participate in education and Islamic guidance committees.



Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Ghaffari

Born in 1329 [1950/51]. Son of the revered martyr, Ayatollah Ghaffari. Seminary education and higher education, with a bachelor's degree in religious jurisprudence and principles of Islamic law.

Combative, brave cleric, always active against the regime of the tyrant.

In the years prior to the revolution, he was frequently prosecuted and jailed.

Active in organizing the people in the activities of the year of the revolution.

Bold vanguard of the million-large, brave scenes during the days of the takeover of the military centers, at the dawn of the revolution.

Frank and uncompromising exposé, as compared to the conservatives and reactionaries.

Islamic law magistrate of the courts in the northern part of the country since the Islamic revolution.

Active member of the investigation committee and deputy chairman of the Plan and Budget Committee.

Representative of the people of Tehran to the first and second majles.

Has the competence necessary to participate in the Investigation and Plan and Budget Committees.



Hojjat ol-Eslam Morteza Razavi

Born in 1326 [1947/48]. Level of education: Religious jurisprudence and bachelor's degree in law.

Well-known figure in the struggles in Qom and the cities of Eastern and Western Azarbaijan before the revolution.

Frequent political successes. Twice jailed and twice exiled.

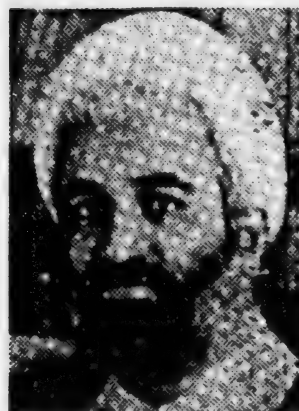
Confronting deviant and reactionary ideas in the above-mentioned regions.

Author of several books on Islamic culture and economic and political issues of Islam.

Active member of the Guidance and Questions majles Committees.

Active majles representative of the people of Tabriz.

Has the necessary competence for membership in the economic and finance and judicial committees.



Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Sadduqi

Born in 1328 [1949/50]. Education in addition to religious jurisprudence seminars and principles.

Active role in the struggle alongside his revered father.

Founder of the Imam's emergency committee, with the help of the clerics and students, during the Tabas earthquake.

Founder of the Islamic revolution committee of Yazd.

Founder of the Guards Corps of Yazd.

Representative of the people of Yazd in the first majles.

Deputy prosecutor general and later deputy chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council.

Representative of the Imam in the committee supervising the elections for the Supreme Judicial Council three times.

Has necessary expertise for participation in the judiciary and guidance committees.



Brother Morteza Katira'i

Born in 1310 [1931/2]. Bachelor's degree in physics and bachelor's degree in physics education from the University of Tehran.

Member of the committee to welcome the Imam.

Part of the education stronghold to raise the level of public education.

Old ally of martyr Raja'i and martyr Bahonar; one of the combative, experienced teachers of the country.

Deputy minister of education for research and planning.

Representative of the people of Malayer and member of the board of directors and commissionaire of the first majles.

Deputy minister for coordination and provincial affairs and deputy minister of education for war during the past four years.

Chairman of the central council of the teachers' association.

Has the necessary expertise for participation in the education and Islamic guidance committees.



Brother Seyyed Mohammad Asghari

Born in 1327 [1948/49]. Education: Master's degree in personal law from the University of Tehran.

Beginning of Islamic political activities: 15 Khordad 1342 [5 June 1963], as a youth; activities in the Muslim assemblies and classes to expose the shah's regime and defend the Muslims' struggle.

Minister in the Cabinet of martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar and also Mr Mahdavi-Kani and Engineer Musavi.

Representative of the people of Tehran in the second majles.

Active membership in the legal and judiciary committee of the majles.

Director of the KEYHAN operations.

Has the necessary expertise for participation in judiciary and Islamic guidance committees.



Engineer Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh

Born in 1334 [1955/56]. Graduated in industrial engineering.

Well-known figure and planner of student struggles against the police state of the shah in the years after 1354 [1975].

He was arrested and jailed in one of the university demonstrations prior to the revolution.

After the revolution, he played an effective role in starting the Reconstruction Crusade and establishing the office for strengthening unity.

One of the planners of the conquest of the U.S. Spy Nest.

Spokesman and member of the central council of the Muslim students following the line of the Imam.

Commander of a Guards Corps unit.

Deputy minister of Islamic guidance in international affairs.

Cultural advisor to the prosecutor general and advisor for international affairs to the minister of guidance in recent years.

Deputy cultural director of KEYHAN.

Has sufficient expertise for participation in the economic and foreign affairs committees.



Sister Marziyyeh Hadidchi (Dabbagh)

Born in 1318 [1939/40]. Studies at standard level.

Start of political struggles: 1346 [1967/68].

Went into hiding and was arrested in 1352 [1973/74].

Secret departure from the country and participation in struggles abroad, including political hunger strike in France.

Partisan and guerrilla-war training in Lebanon, and six months of armed struggle against Israel.

Efforts to establish Guards Corps units in the western part of the country.

Commander of the Guards Corps in Hamadan.

Military training for women at the Martyr Bahonar Camp, and starting student and educational affairs mobilization.

Representative of the people of Tehran in the second majles.

Has the necessary expertise to participate in the committees on defense and investigating questions.



Sister 'Ateqeh Saddiqi (Raja'i)

Born in 1322 [1943/44]. Self educated.

Spouse of martyr Raja'i, the popular, beloved president of Iran.

Struggled against the decadent monarchical regime alongside her revered husband.

Active role in forming strikes and demonstrations of families of political prisoners.

Teaching in Islamic schools.

She was twice elected representative of the people of Tehran to the majles.

Decisive positions against deviant movements contrary to the Imam's line.

Familiarity with educational issues and cultural affairs of women.

Has the necessary expertise for participation in the education and Islamic guidance committees.



Dr Ameneh Zafar-Qandi

Born in 1334 [1955/56]. Specialized medical degree in women's surgery and obstetrics from the University of Tehran.

Participation in political students' and university activities.

Present in sessions and classes of personalities, such as Ayatollah Motahari and Dr Beheshti.

Active participation in women's Islamic organizations.

Membership in Islamic societies of hospitals where employed.

Member of the medical cadre of the Guards Corps hospitals.

Sufficient familiarity with social and cultural issues of women and university environments.

Has sufficient expertise to participate in health and higher education committees.



Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Abdolvahed Musavi-Lari

Born in 1333 [1954/55]. Education in religious jurisprudence to the standard level; seminars and principles in Najaf.

Liaison of the Najaf center with Persian Gulf countries during the presence of the Imam.

Distribution agent for communiques and announcements of the Imam and for contact with the clergy abroad.

Return to Iran; continuation of struggle against the tyrant; political arrest; imprisonment and torture from 1353 to the end of 1355 [1974-1977].

Representative of the people to the first majles. Participation in planning of political-worship Hajj ceremonies. Member of the board of directors of the Islamic culture foundation of Qom and the Islamic thought foundation.

Legal and parliamentary affairs deputy of the ministries of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Has sufficient expertise to participate in foreign affairs and guidance committees.



Brother Fakhreddin Hejazi

Born in 1308 [1929/30]. Theological education to the standard level; bachelor's degree in literature.

Well-known, popular, beloved writer and speaker.

Entered the political scene in Shahrivar 1320 [August-/September 1941], in step with the Islamic movements against the deviant and dependent parties and groups.

He was pursued and lived in hiding after the 28 Mordad 1332 [19 August 1953] coup d'etat, as a result of his activities against the tyrant prior to that event.

Publisher of the weekly journal JELVEH-YE HAQIQAT in Sabzevar.

He was jailed, tortured and exiled many times in the course of the struggles before the revolution.

Frequently banned by SAVAK from delivering sermons and speeches.

First representative of the people of Tehran in the first and second majles.

Continual activity and presence on the fronts of the imposed war and many important operations.



Brother 'Abbas Duzdüzani

Born in 1321 [1942/43]. University education.

Representative in two majles legislatures.

Began political life in 1340 [1961/62], simultaneous with employment in the education department.

In 1343 [1964/65], active in the Islamic Nations Party, with a policy of armed struggle.

In 1344 [1965/66], arrest and political incarceration; termination of employment; banned from continuing higher education until after the revolution.

In 1346 [1967/68], political arrest, accused of assassination attempt against the shah during the so-called coronation celebration in 1346 [1967].

In 1351 [1972/73], arrested jailed and tortured in the prisons of the shah's regime for five years.

In 1357 [1978/79], mobilized and organized people's demonstrations and was present in the takeover of the military centers of the regime at the dawn of the revolution.

In 1358 [1979/80], founding member and member of the council of the Guards Corps and later commander general of the Guards Corps.

In 1359 [1980/81], minister of guidance in the Cabinet of martyr Raja'i; representative of the majles during two legislatures; active member of the guidance, defense and foreign policy committees.



Engineer Morteza Alviri

Born in 1327 [1948/49]; education in electrical engineering.

Start of political life, 1346 [1967/68]. Political arrests in 1349 [1970/71], 1351 [1972/73], 1352 [1973/74], 1356 [1977/78], and 1357 [1978/79].

Secret trip to Najaf to visit the Imam and receive necessary instructions in 1356 [1977/78].

Continuation of struggles, after returning from Najaf, in "Fallah" group.

Member of the central committee of the Islamic revolution for the establishment of the Guards Corps.

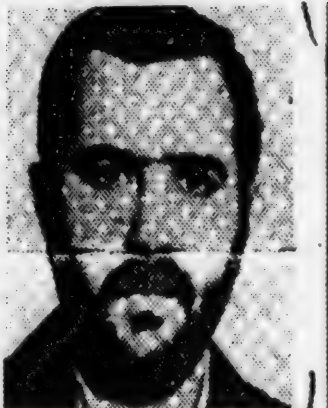
Representative of the people of Damavand in the first majles.

Active member of the industries and mines committee in the first majles.

Parliamentary deputy of the Plan and Budget Ministry since Khordad 1363 [May/June 1984].

Member of the seven-member council of the headquarters of the program for preparing the critical conditions.

Has the necessary expertise to participate in the industries and mines and plan and budget committees.



Engineer Shamseddin Vahabi

Born in 1334 [1955/56]. Master's degree in mining from the University of Tehran.

Active participation in student political struggles before the rev revolution.

Banned from continuing his education and expelled from the University for political struggle.

Active participation in forming and establishing the Reconstruction Crusade and serving in it.

Member and in charge of the public relations office of the students following the line of the Imam.

Active role in forming Islamic student organizations.

Member of the central council of the office for strengthening unity for three years.

Active participation in the engineering affairs of the war.

Member of the faculty of the University of Tehran; war deputy of the University of Tehran.

Familiarity with student and university environment; believes in developing university research for war. Has the necessary expertise for participation in industries and defense committees.



Brother Hoseyn Mozaffarinezhad

Born in 1323 [1954/55] to a religious family. Graduated in [as published].

Struggle against the regime of the tyrant since youth, with the start of the authentic Islamic movement led by Imam Khomeyni.

An ally of the revered martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar in the struggles against the tyrant, and finally arrested and jailed.

A close colleague of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili and revered martyrs Beheshti, Raja'i and Bahonar in cultural affairs before and after the revolution.

In charge of the committee to welcome Imam Khomeyni in 1357 [1978/79].

Deputy to martyr Raja'i and martyr Bahonar in the Ministry of Education.

Deputy minister of education and professor of teacher training centers.

Deputy minister of mines and metals; deputy director for geology and explorations.

Has the necessary, useful expertise to participate in education, culture and higher education and industries and mines committees.



Brother Ja'far Najafi-'Elmi

Born in 1322 [1943/4] to a religious family. Theological center education in religious jurisprudence seminars and principles in Qom, and bachelor's degree in social sciences from the University of Tehran. Struggle against the regime of the tyrant since the start of the authentic Islamic movement led by Imam Khomeyni.

A close colleague of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili and revered martyrs Beheshti, Raja'i and Bahonar in cultural affairs.

Responsibilities and jobs since the Islamic revolution: (1) Education deputy of the central office of education of Tehran Province. (2) Director general of teacher training department, appointed by martyr Bahonar. (3) Member of the Supreme Council for education and member of the faculty of the Judiciary Sciences Department of the University of Tehran. (4) At the present, governor general of Fars Province. Has the necessary, useful expertise to participate in education and culture and higher education committees.



Dr Najafqoli Habibi

Born in 1320 [1941/2]. PhD in Islamic philosophy from the University of Tehran, and also has theological center education.

Active participation in Islamic revolutionary struggles of the people.

Teaching in high schools and training Muslim revolutionary forces.

Director of the majles library.

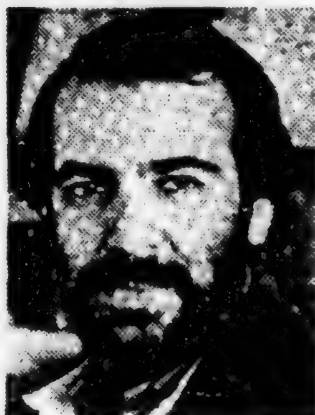
Deputy of martyr Dr Mofatteh in the Department of Theology.

President of the al-Zahra University and the Teacher Training University.

Professor and chairman of the Law and Political Science Department of the University of Tehran.

Chairman of Judiciary Sciences Department; affiliated with the Supreme Judicial Council.

Has sufficient expertise to participate in higher education and judiciary committees.



Engineer 'Abbas 'Abdi

Born in 1335 [1956/57]. Degree in chemical and polymer engineering.

Struggle against the regime of the tyrant during his student years, and one of the distinguished figures of the student and university struggles.

Participation in the establishment of the Muslim students' organization and expansion of the political-cultural activities of students.

Membership in the planning council for the conquest of the Spy Nest.

Secretary of the seven-member commission for land transfer of Fars Province, offering many services to the farmers and the oppressed in the region.

Presence in Lebanon and fighting the Zionist enemy.

Supervisor of the office of social studies and research of the Prosecutor's Office.

Participation in a number of committee councils in order to eliminate cultural and social problems. Awareness of economic development expansion issues, economic issues and sociological issues.

Has the necessary expertise to participate in the economic affairs and culture and higher education committees.



Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh

Born in 1327 [1948/49]. PhD in economics.

Participation in student political activities.

Cooperation with martyr Dr Beheshti in research and studies in the area of the economic issues of the country.

Supervision of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance upon the invitation of martyr Raja'i. Director general of the Central Bank after the dismissal of Bani-Sadr.

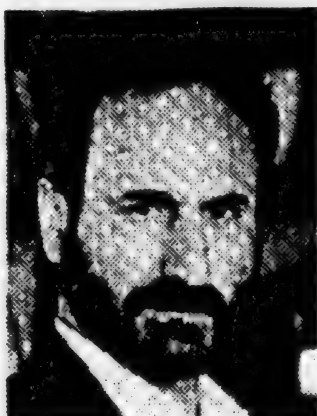
Director general of the Central Bank during the Cabinets of martyr Raja'i, martyr Bahonar, Ayatollah Mahdavi and Engineer Musavi.

Active role in devising all interest-free banking operation bills within the framework of Islamic banking.

Educational vice president of Martyr Beheshti University.

Informed about global economic and monetary issues and policies.

Has necessary expertise to participate in economics and budget committees.



Brother Seyyed Mohammad Mir Mohammad Sadeqi

Born in 1325 [1946/47]. Bachelor's degree in systems analysis.

After the start of the Imam Khomeyni movement and the 15 Khordad 1342 [5 June 1963] uprising, he began fighting the tyrant through membership in the Islamic Nations Party.

Following many arrests, he was once again arrested in 1344 [1965/66], and was condemned by the military court to life imprisonment.

In 1352 [1973/74], he was released from prison and once again continued his struggles.

After the revolution: Expansion and establishment of Islamic labor institutions, such as Islamic workers' councils.

Efforts in writing unemployment insurance and labor laws.

Deputy minister of agriculture and director of fisheries in 1360 [1981/2].

Director of Shahed investment company (affiliated with Martyr's Foundation) since 1363 [1984/85].

Has necessary expertise to participate in the labor and workers' and agricultural committees.



Brother Ahmad Baqeri-Yazdi

Born in 1332 [1953/54]. Degree in electrical engineering.

Self-educated in workers' problems and active in the area of workers' environments.

Representative of workers in the Islamic council of Iran Dama factories.

Member of the central council of the center for the coordination of Islamic councils of the factories of Tehran Province.

Member of the supreme council of labor and representative of the workers in the supervisory committee of the Social Security Agency.

Executive secretary of labor. Member of the central council of Khaneh-ye Kargar.

Has the necessary expertise to participate in labor and workers' and industries and mines committees. 10000

Paper Cited Over Sending of Basijis

46400129a London KEYHAN in Persian 19 May 88 p 2

[Text] Opposition to the war policies of the Islamic regime is heightening every day in the country. Such opposition has even caused open reactions, even on the part of the conservative elements affiliated with the Islamic regime. RESALAT, a newspaper affiliated with the bazaar and theological center faction, attacked the war policies of the Islamic government in its 19 Ordibehesht [9 May] editorial and wrote: The mobilization of persons and sending them to the front without being followed by an attack will quell the people's interest in continuing the war. RESALAT added: People see that despite the mobilization of forces, there are no new attacks, and this raises the question of whether or not the purpose of the war is victory.

In the opinion of this newspaper, the strangulation in the war has caused Iraq to purchase new weapons. At the same time, the pockets of ordinary people in Iran have become more empty than before.

The attacks, called Karbala 4 and Karbala 5, around Basra were defeated and produced many casualties. For a long time, the Islamic Republic has been leaning towards small, regional battles. Under these circumstances, following the retreat of the Islamic Republic forces from Faw, Hashemi-Rafsanjani openly said that time is not on the side of the Islamic Republic and asked that more forces be sent to the front.

On the other hand, in the opinion of informed observers, the change of the chief of the armed forces has been interpreted as a sign of a break in the present stagnation on the fronts and increased cooperation between the army and the Guards Corps.

These observers have said that, at the present time, the Islamic regime is facing increasing problems in terms of the mobilization and preparation of new forces. Nevertheless, the propaganda apparatus of the Islamic government continues to speak of sending reinforcements to the war fronts.

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Value of Carpet Exports Reach 500 Million Dollars

46400130c London KEYHAN in Persian 26 May 88 p 4

[Text] During 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], the Islamic Republic exported a total of about \$500 million in handwoven Iranian carpets. According to a report by the weekly economic journal MEED (London), the \$500 million export of Iranian carpets in 1366 [1987/88] is a new record for Iranian exports. This weekly writes in its report on the export activities of the Islamic Republic: "The value of non-oil exports of the Islamic Republic in the past two years has doubled, reaching from 30 billion rials in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] to about

600 billion rials in 1366 [1987/88] [as published]. The increase in Iranian (non-oil) exports has taken place parallel to the decrease in the import of foreign goods.

Because the Islamic Republic vitally needs foreign currency, in the recent years, it has followed effective incentive policies to increase non-oil exports. On the list of non-oil Iranian exports last year, in addition to carpets, which hold the first place, are other exports, including pistachios and shelled pistachio nuts, various kinds of animal hides, fresh fruits, caviar, raisins, raw minerals, and light industrial products.

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Unemployment Figures Reportedly Reach 8 Million

46400129b London KEYHAN in Persian 19 May 88 p 4

[Text] The daily growth in population, the lack of investments in the private and government sectors, the chaotic economic situation stemming from the continuation of the war with Iraq, and other social and political problems have resulted in the unemployment of more than 8 million people in Iran. On the basis of the estimates of economic experts, at the present, about 30-35 percent of the active population of Iran suffers from unemployment, part-time employment or hidden unemployment. The initial results of the general census for 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] indicate that the population of Iran amounts to 50 million at the present.

Based on the same statistics published by the Iranian statistics center, the figure for persons 15 years of age and above, which was about 18 million in 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977], has increased to 27.3 million after 10 years, that is, in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]. A great segment of this active population, which should be employed in various economic sectors of the country, has been removed from the rank of potential job seekers because they are on the war fronts in various forms, and, without definite employment, they are only consumers. Of the remaining 25-26 million active forces, only 16-17 million are employed in government organizations or the private sector, in agriculture, industries and services, and the remainder of the active population, some 8-10 million, are for all intents and purposes unemployed. Thus, the active, productive forces are being wasted.

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Wheat Production Expected To Reach 8 Million Tons

46400130a London KEYHAN in Persian 26 May 88 p 4

[Text] Because of the favorable climatic conditions and beneficial rains in Iran, wheat production this year is expected to reach more than 8 million tons. If this projection comes true, this year, the wheat production of

the country will see a growth of about one million tons compared to 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] and 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]. 'Abbas'ali Zali, the minister of agriculture of the Islamic Republic, explained in a press conference some time ago the new policies for the development of agriculture and spoke on the new plans in the area of self-sufficiency regarding milk and dairy products and the expenses of agricultural exports.

In a part of this press conference the minister of agriculture of the Islamic Republic said: "Cultivation of wheat this year was very good; it is expected that 8 million tons of wheat will be harvested." He said that his projection is based on the increase in the purchase of seeds. In regards to other other agricultural products, the Provinces of Mazandaran and Gilan reached production of 739 tons, which, compared to the previous year, is an increase of 190 tons.

The minister of agriculture of the Islamic Republic explained the new agricultural plans, said that they numbered 468, and announced that 57 billion rials in funds have been allotted to these projects. He added that these plans will be implemented in the area of water and soil, forests and pastures, and livestock and fowl, in terms of research and services.

In another part of this interview, 'Abbas'ali Zali said: "The projects of the agricultural sector in the area of stabilizing shifting sands will cover 300,000 hectares, and the production of sapplings will increase from 60 million to 150-200 million."

In regards to expanding the export of agricultural products, the minister of agriculture of the Islamic Republic said:

"The export of agricultural products can potentially absorb \$1.5 million from world markets, which can be achieved, once the problems are solved."

He also said that self-sufficiency in the production of fresh milk in some cities, including Kerman, Hamadan, Sari and Zanjan, has decreased the import of powdered milk. For this reason, every day, 75 tons of surplus factory milk is sent to dairy stores for use in the production of needed yogurt in the society in place of powdered milk.

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Many Factories, Industrial Workshops Reported Closed

46400129c London KEYHAN in Persian 19 May 88 p 4

[Text] During 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], the share of foreign currency allotted to industries (with the exception of military industries and weapons-producing units) has been less than the share allotted to commercial activities. As a result, goods and merchandise that can be

produced domestically have entered the country. In addition, the foreign currency allotment for industries, in addition to resulting in the closure of many industrial units and small and large factories throughout the country, has resulted in the unemployment of a large number of workers. The owners of some of the industrial units and large workshops, due to the restrictions on foreign currency allotment and their inability to procure needed raw materials for production activities, as well as the shortage of machinery and spare parts, have been forced to reduce their work hours. According to a report in the Tehran press, while most textile factories have been working at less than 50 percent capacity as a result of the lack of foreign currency, last year, 20 million meters of fabric have been imported.

Apparently, there is unprecedented chaos in regards to the allocation of foreign currency to various industrial sectors. This has severely disrupted the pricing system for the products of domestic industries. At the present, there are four kinds of currency in the country—government currency, open currency, currency obtained from exports, and preferred currency. The use by every industrial unit of one kind of currency and the difference in the price of manufactured goods depending on the use of particular kinds of foreign currency have resulted in chaos on the basis of product pricing. As a consequence, domestic industrial products have suffered irreparable damages. Economic experts believe that not only have the incompetence of the economic officials of the country and the creation of improper policies brought the domestic industries to bankruptcy, but, according to projections, during this year (1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]), given the decrease in the foreign currency funds allotted to industries and the restrictions on the budget allocated to developmental activities, numerous other problems will be added to the economic problems of the country.

According to reports received from Tehran and other cities of the country, at the present time, most industrial production units are closed or have reduced their work level to one-third or even less. A report from the industrial city of Esfahan indicates that at least four-fifths of the industrial textile units and textile and spinning factories of that province have reduced their daily production activities to a minimum. Production units in Yazd and most of the production units in the Provinces of Azarbaijan and Tehran as well are either closed or continuing on a half- or part-time basis.

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Yearly Inflation Rate Reaching 100 Percent

46400127c London KEYHAN in Persian 12 May 88 p 4

[Text] "Some of the businessmen, salesmen and distribution agents take advantage of the war of the cities to increase prices daily and treat customers improperly. The index of the value of needed goods verifies this matter. Various kinds of foodstuff, clothing, fruits and

fresh vegetables, household items, construction materials, spare parts, industrial equipment and parts, health and cosmetic items and services, such as repairs, treatment services, and residential rents, have all increased in recent weeks."

The above statement is part of a report recently published in Tehran in connection with the tremendously high prices in various cities in the crisis of the war of the cities.

According to reports received from Tehran, despite the halt in the Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran, the wave of high prices continues throughout the city of Tehran and other cities in the country. Many stores which previously provided the needs of the people are still closed. Among these stores, bakeries and stores selling food items and other goods are mentioned.

One of the Tehran publications, quoting Hasan Ebrahimi, a factory worker, writes: "I am amazed why, despite the fact that I have given up buying certain items, my expenses still exceed what they were before." This worker adds: "Today, I can no longer buy fruit. The price of the fruit available on the market has doubled, that is, when you can find it."

Apparently, the problem of high prices hurts salaried people and those on fixed incomes. Employees and salaried personnel, the majority of whom are on a lower income level, cannot tolerate the continual increase in prices. With each day, they are unable to procure some of their vital needs.

KEYHAN (Tehran), quoting Ahmad Reza'i, an employee of the Ministry of Finance, writes: "Until late last year, oranges were 150-200 rials per kg. But this year, when we go to any fruit seller, he either has no oranges or, if he has them, they are rotten and unusable. Instead, he sells you oranges that were 150-rial per kg at 400 rials per kg and tells you he is doing you a favor." The same employee adds: "If I used to be able to buy 2 kg of oranges for my wife and children previously, under present conditions, I cannot even do that."

An economic affairs expert who spent the past two months in Tehran told KEYHAN that high prices have created a critical situation in Tehran and most provincial cities.

He added: "Before the missile attacks on Tehran and several other cities and the bombings by Iraqi fighter bombers, despite the claims of government officials in regards to implementing government punishment regulations, the prices of items needed by the people was continually increasing. The missile attacks on Tehran and the expansive bombings of other cities, in addition to disturbing general order in the cities, and combined with the rush of the people to other safe cities, the disruption of the transportation of goods, and the chaos in regards to the foodstuff distribution network, severely

limited the supply of the foodstuff and essential goods needed by the people. In addition, the salespeople and professional hoarders also took advantage of the chaos resulting from the war of the cities and increased the prices of all items by 50-200 percent." The economic expert said: "The annual rate of inflation in Iran was estimated at about 50 percent up to the end of last year. This figure, based on estimates made by economists, has now reached 100-120 percent."

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Exported Food Items Often Scarce, Expensive Domestically

46400127a London KEYHAN in Persian 19 May 88 p 4

[Text] During 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], the Islamic Republic exported a total of 1,154 tons of goods, valued at 77,654 million rials, to the world markets. The Iranian customs public relations office announced that Iranian exports in 1366 [1987/88] increased by 15 percent in value and 80 percent in weight, compared with 1365 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978]. Iranian customs added in its announcement: "Last year, the export of marine products such as caviar; fresh, frozen and smoked fish; and different kinds of shrimp consisted of 838 tons at a value of 7,685 million rials. Among the marine products of Iran which were exported in 1366 [1987/88], caviar, at 155 tons in weight and 1,756 million rials in value, increased by about 54 percent in weight and 81 percent in value compared to the exports of this product in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987].

An economics expert told KEYHAN that the emphasis of the Islamic regime of Tehran on expanding exports is a result of the regime's need for foreign currency. Some export items from Iran, such as fresh and smoked fish, are so scarce and so expensive in Iran that no one is able to buy and consume them. The shortage of such consumer and food items, more than being the result of limited production or the inadequacy of the distribution network, is due to the export of these items to obtain foreign currency. This same expert added: At the present, an average-sized fish from the Caspian Sea is sold for 6,000-8,000 rials and a small- to medium-sized smoked fish is sold for 9,000-12,000 rials.

The Iranian customs public relations office said in regards to other exported items in 1366 [1987/88] that the export of stones and construction materials was about 147,000 tons, at a value of 325 million rials. The export of these items increased by 303 percent in weight and about 44 percent in value, compared to 1365 [1986/87]. In the year in question, the Islamic Republic exported 55.1 tons of colcothar and chromite abroad and has added about 410 million rials to its treasury.

In its communique, Iranian customs announced that the export of chromite increased by 335 percent in weight and 109 percent in value compared to 1365 [1986/87].

The statistics published by the Iranian customs indicate that the export of tricot, fabrics and thread in 1366 [1987/88] consisted of about 1,251 tons, at a value of 912,758 million rials.

The export of pharmaceutical and industrial goods was 6,100 tons, at a value of 662 million rials, in 1366 [1987/88]. The most important of these items were licorice extract, at 866 tons in weight and 90 million rials in value. The export of this item last year, compared to 1365 [1986/87], increased by about 70 percent in weight and about 5.1 percent in value.

Economic experts believe that the increase in the rate of foreign currency exchange coupled with the willingness of the Islamic Republic to allow goods to be exported at a low price has resulted in an annual increase in the weight of export items and a decrease in the value or price of these items.

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Yearly Agricultural Losses Reportedly Over 800 Billion Rials

46400127b London KEYHAN in Persian 12 May 88 p 4

[Text] Every year, at the time of the harvest of agricultural products in Iran, about 5 percent of the wheat production, at a value of 18 billion rials; 10 percent of the tree-fruit production, at a value of 45 billion rials; 15 percent of the onion and potato production, at a value of 11 billion rials; and 20 percent of the cotton production, at a value of 9.6 billion rials, are wasted. The average volume of waste at this stage has been estimated at about 15 percent, or 230 billion rials, annually. If such waste were prevented, food for 6 million of the population of the country could be provided.

According to a report published in KEYHAN (Tehran), a great deal of the waste of agricultural products produced occurs at harvest time. Problems concerning the necessary manpower resources, salaries and wages, harvest machinery, protection of the harvest against pests, and also problems related to the pricing and marketing, collection, transportation, packaging and temporary shortage of products are major causes of waste. The above-mentioned newspaper writes:

Waste in storage makes up a major part of the waste of agricultural products in the world. In Iran, produced items often do not have proper storage facilities in villages, and a great deal is wasted due to exposure to wind, rain, heat, pests and disease. On the whole, the waste of agricultural products at various stages of harvesting, transportation, packaging, storage, preparation and marketing are very different. Waste has been calculated to be about 15 percent for wheat and barley, or 1.3 million tons; 10 percent for rice, or 180,000 tons; 6-10 percent for sugar beets, or between 300,000 and 500,000 tons; 25-40 percent for fresh vegetables and fruits, or to

3-5 million tons; 25-30 percent for citrus fruits, equivalent to 220,000-300,000 tons, and up to 30 percent for apples. On the whole, the amount of waste of agricultural products is about 30 percent, which, combined with animal husbandry products, makes a total of about 800 billion rials annually.

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Changes in Import, Export Regulations Announced

46400136a Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
5 May 88 p 2

[Text] Economic Service: There have been changes in the overall spirit prevailing in the executive guidelines in the Import Export Law of 1367 [21 March 1988 - 20 March 1989], a continuation of the governments policy to hold down export exchange rates, the creation of facilities for exporters of goods, and an easing of restrictions on those traveling abroad.

This was announced this morning at a press conference by Mojtaba Khosrowtaj, deputy minister of commerce for foreign trade. He said: Since there has been no change in the Import-Export Law this year, neither have there been any great changes in the guidelines, and the government's policy of last year on the rate of export foreign exchange certificates of deposits is continuing. Likewise there have been no changes in the mechanism for buying certificates of deposits by the banks or to the restricted list of goods that can be imported with export foreign exchange.

He discussed the changes that have taken place in these guidelines. He said: One of the changes is provisions made in the area of fishing and fisheries; fisheries may now meet their needs through exports. Likewise, service units, like the production units which were able to buy certificates of deposit last year to obtain spare parts, will be able to obtain spare parts by buying export foreign exchange certificates of deposit. Sectors such as the publishing industry will benefit from this provision.

According to him, this year exporters will be able to import items they need for exporting (packaging supplies, etc.) and their problem will be solved in this way. Goods which are normally considered luxury items but are necessary for packaging and similar work will also be authorized for import.

Mr Khosrowtaj discussed imports without the transfer of foreign exchange. He said: The major problem in this area is that it is difficult to control distribution and set prices for such goods and in any case it affects the value of the rial. He added: The changes that have taken place in this regard include the free importation without the transfer of foreign exchange of sample goods for production units, emission control, imports obtained through subsequent discounts, and other such things which have no commercial aspects. Production units may also

import goods to a specified limit without the transfer of foreign exchange, but the goods they obtain will in any case be subject to supervision and price controls. According to him, the purpose of this policy is to prevent compromise in the government's control mechanism and to prevent devaluation of the currency.

Concerning other changes in the guidelines he said: Provisions are made so that organizations which previously had no foreign exchange income may receive export foreign exchange in exchange for their technical services. These organizations may offer their services and use the export rate for foreign exchange. If companies which have previously offered such services have a surplus of foreign exchange from the previous year, they may obtain 20 percent of its value at the export rate of foreign exchange.

Gifts and Souvenirs

According to Mr Khosrowtaj, provisions are made so that each person may mail abroad up to 5,000 rials in dried fruits and vegetables with the exception of pistachios and almonds, up to 15,000 rials in handmade goods (with the exception of items listed by the reconstruction crusade), up to 15,000 rials in slides, films, tapes and the like. Therefore the total value may not exceed 35,000 rials. Travelers leaving the country may take an annual maximum of 20,000 rials in handmade goods and 15,000 rials in books and other goods, in addition to personal effects, once per year.

He added: Gifts and souvenirs may also be received by mail, with an upper limit of 20,000 rials for each person, which is an increase of 15,000 rials over last year. He considered the major reason for the upper limit on gifts and souvenirs to be the problems postal employees were having assessing the value of goods coming into and out of the country. He added: Of course conditions have been applied that will prevent abuses.

Goods Accompanying Passengers

Concerning goods accompanying passengers, he said: The major change in regulations on goods accompanying passengers is the free import of household items for the personal use of the traveler, including such goods as televisions, refrigerators, freezers, electric sweepers, washing machines and water heaters. The upper limit on goods that can be brought in along with a passenger has not changed, and is still 50,000 rials without customs duties.

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Regulations on Transport of Goods by Passengers Announced

46400133b Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 May 88 p 13

[Text] The amount and type of goods that passengers may take abroad from Iran have been increased.

According to the economic correspondent for the newspaper KEYHAN, Mojtaba Khosrowtaj, deputy minister of commerce, discussed this matter this morning at a press conference.

He said: One of the government's policies in the current year will be to control the export rate of foreign exchange certificates of deposit, and on this basis the premiums that were set last year will be in force this year as well. He added: One of the important items in the executive guidelines for the current year is imported goods accompanying passengers. As of this date passengers may import up to 100,000 rials in household goods including televisions, refrigerators, freezers, electric sweepers, washing machines, and water coolers. He also said: Each person may bring up to 20,000 rials in gifts into the country by mail once a year.

He said: Passengers leaving the country may take with them an annual maximum of 30,000 rials in handmade goods and 15,000 rials in books, publications and other goods, in addition to the usual personal items.

Khosrowtaj then discussed the method for sending gifts and souvenirs abroad. He said: Each merchant may send gifts and souvenirs abroad once a year with a maximum value of 5,000 rials for goods such as dried vegetables and dried fruits (excepting pistachios, pistachio meats, almonds and almond meats) and clothing, a maximum value of 15,000 rials for handmade goods (excepting goods announced by the reconstruction crusade through the Ministry of Commerce), and a maximum value of 15,000 rials for film, audio and video tapes, slides, and books and publications (with the permission of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance).

Executive Guidelines for Exports and Imports

The deputy minister of commerce then discussed the executive guidelines for exports and imports. He said: New regulations have been prepared to encourage and expand non-petroleum exports and also to make use of idle capacities. Using the guidelines in the Customs Law and observing regulations, production units are authorized to import raw materials, separate parts, cartons and packaging needs, and then to export the resulting products.

Khosrowtaj said: Another important section of these guidelines is the import of goods without the transfer of foreign exchange, which causes problems with setting prices and distribution, and brings down the value of the rial against foreign currencies. For this purpose, like last year, spare parts, cutting tools, new and used molds, sample products for production, educational or research units, samples of drugs, raw materials and supplemental materials, packaging materials for those items, medical, laboratory and health care supplies, milk and baby food,

books and publications and laboratory equipment for universities may be imported, provided they have no commercial aspects and with the approval of the relevant ministry.

Other goods may be imported with agreement from the commission for Article Two of the executive guidelines.

Continuing he said that another important change in the export-import guidelines is its provision for foreign exchange earnings from the technical services of organizations. He said: Government institutions and companies who have no record of foreign exchange earnings as yet will be eligible for the benefits of foreign exchange earned from exports, and 20 percent of the surplus foreign exchange earned from international shipping and other technical services of government organizations, institutions and companies which were rendered internationally during the previous year, provided the foreign exchange is earned using the new method, will be made available to them.

9310

Security Measures Point to Uneasy Situation in Tehran

46400133a London KEYHAN in Persian
19 May 88 pp 1,3

[Text] Tehran has an abnormal face these days. Stringent security measures are evident throughout the city. Revolutionary guardsmen armed with machine guns maintain intense vigilance from rooftops and around important government buildings and the Central Bank.

KEYHAN's sources in Dubayy said that the abnormal situation in Tehran is due to widespread popular opposition to the war's continuation and to the Khomeyni regime's impotence and silence concerning the effects of the war's misfortunes.

The same sources told KEYHAN that during the last two weeks the people held anti-war demonstrations in many parts of Tehran, and at some of these demonstrations the revolutionary guards watched without preventing the demonstrations. It is said that in one of these demonstrations the number of demonstrators was extremely large.

According to informed sources in Dubayy, the vigor of the popular demonstrations and the disinclination of the revolutionary guards to stop them so angered Khomeyni and his office that Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the revolutionary guards, was placed under surveillance. This was confirmed by other sources, but is still no more than a rumor; even so, it shows the seriousness of the situation.

At the same time, Western intelligence sources also confirmed the abnormality of the situation in Tehran. Informed officials from Western nations with embassies

in Tehran have said that armored cars and jeeps equipped with machine guns are to be seen around large government buildings and at sensitive points in Tehran. Some sources have even said that large numbers of tanks are to be seen on Tehran's streets, but the Dubayy sources consider it unlikely that the Khomeyni regime would use tanks to protect government buildings.

The Westerners initially thought that the stringent security measures had to do with Khomeyni, and that Khomeyni had probably died, but last Friday Tehran television showed a film of Khomeyni casting a vote in a ballot box on its news broadcast.

Some sources also say that the regime has been frightened by the opposition of traditional clergymen to the group of combative clergymen in Tehran who recently organized by breaking with the Society of Combative Clergymen.

Yesterday the newspaper INDEPENDENT published in London reported that two important grand ayatollahs, Ayatollah al-'Ozma Golpayegani and Ayatollah al-'Ozma Mar'ashi Najafi, in a letter to Khomeyni, asked him to stop the war with Iraq.

The war's continuation at a time when the Islamic Republic does not have the practical capability to defeat Iraq, and especially the defeat at Faw and the regime's inability to break through at Basra, and finally the buildup of countless human, economic and social problems because of the war's continuation, has united everyone and crystallized opposition to the Khomeyni regime.

One of the reasons for the people's anger is that the government takes no responsibility for helping the injured and those who have suffered losses due to the war. Even non-combatants who have been injured in the war are not admitted to government hospitals, and this is at a time when the cost of medical treatment and drugs on the free market is astronomical.

In addition to Tehran, anti-regime demonstrations have been held in Mashhad, Tabriz, and several other cities. These demonstrations took place and intensified after the defeat at Faw and when the regime's military weakness against Iraq became apparent.

During these two weeks the regime's radio and television stations have conspicuously reduced their propaganda activities and have restricted most of their programming to reruns and revolutionary anthems. One of the programs discusses popular willingness to go to the fronts, but the photographs and films that accompany this news are such that everyone realizes that the regime is not getting enough soldiers and mobilization troops, meaning that Iran has even lost its numerical superiority in the war.

On the other hand, the inept way in which the war is being managed is being severely criticized within the Council of Ministers. The preachers who have been kept away from the scene of recent changes are now joining the people in saying that the regime's leaders do not have the sensibility and the competence to manage the war and that it would be better to turn this matter over to specialists. This was also mentioned in the newspaper RESALAT.

The loss of Faw is one of the regime's scandals and has been a severe blow to Khomeyni's prestige; even more important is the lack of movement at the fronts. Defeats in the revolutionary guard harassment operations in the Persian Gulf, and especially the continuous Iraqi attacks on Iran's vital installations have not only irreversibly damaged the regime's image and prestige, but they have caused the people to demonstrate openly for an end to the war.

Informed sources say that anti-war demonstrations by Iranian groups in America and other countries have been quite effective in giving heart to the people within Iran.

Iranian patriots abroad, and especially in America have conducted extensive organized demonstrations in which they have announced that 'Resolution 598 does not take Iran's best interests into account'. They have called for an end to the war and said that Iraq must be condemned as the aggressor and be made responsible for paying reparations.

9310

Millions Reportedly Contributed to Foreign Publications

46400128b London KEYHAN in Persian 19 May 88 p 2

[Text] The Islamic Republic has allotted 400 million rials for aid to foreign newspapers and magazines who write in support of the policies of that government.

This amount has been included in proposal No 11/710/8/155 of the Ministry of Information to the Cabinet in the 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] general budget of the country and has been signed by Prime Minister Seyyed Hoseyn Musavi.

The implemental bylaws for the procedures to use this fund stipulate:

(1) Ministry of Islamic Guidance may spend 400 million rials of the funds in Item 503088 of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance on cultural affairs and aid to the oppressed abroad, especially for the two projects in Lebanon and London.

(2) The funds cited in these bylaws can be spent as specified below: A. Gratis assistance to newspapers and magazines that reflect the views of the Islamic Republic and support the Islamic revolution. B. Gratis assistance

to personalities and liberating organizations as well as Islamic and popular movements, cultural and artistic groups, and religious and cultural personalities.

C. Assistance in the creation of mosques, cultural centers and libraries in foreign countries, particularly Third World countries, with the cooperation of the people of the area.

Another part of these bylaws states: The foreign currency allocation committee is obliged to allocate foreign currency in the amount cited in these bylaws independent of other foreign currency budgets of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is obliged to make foreign currency available for this Ministry.

The minister of Islamic guidance and the related treasury officer may confer all or part of the responsibilities stated in these bylaws to their colleagues.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi

It should be pointed out that the Islamic Republic ratified its bylaws for 400 million rials in aid to certain newspapers and personalities supporting the regime abroad at a time when most developmental budgets have been omitted due to the shortage of foreign currency. Many factories have halted operations because they do not have the foreign currency to buy machinery and raw materials, and also simultaneous with the ratification of these bylaws, the plan for sending difficult patient cases abroad for treatment has been abolished as a result of the shortage of foreign currency.

In connection with gratis aid by the Islamic Republic, the names of several small and large newspapers in various countries are mentioned. In Lebanon, several newspapers and magazines are published at the expense of the Islamic Republic. In Canada, one publication published by a Pakistani defends the positions of the Islamic Republic. In Pakistan, the newspaper JANG is constantly used as a source of documentation for the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY radio.

10000

37,000 To Enroll in Teachers Colleges

46400136b Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
5 May 88 p 2

[Text] Along with the expansion of educational centers this year, 20 teachers colleges will be created throughout the country.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports that Mr Heydari, deputy minister of education for manpower training, announced this in Semnan.

Noting that the admissions test for the teachers colleges will be held this month on 22 Ordibehesht [12 May], he said: For this test, 232,000 applicants have registered, and this is an increase of 30,000 over the previous year.

He said: This year a total of 37,000 students will enroll in teachers colleges.

Referring to Teacher's Week, he then said: In observance of this week, in each province at least four model teachers will be chosen, and in order to show appreciation for the services of these dear ones, gifts have been planned, such as a promotion by one grade, a blackboard and a trip to Syria.

9310

Thousands of Teaching Positions Never Filled

46400128a London KEYHAN in Persian 19 May 88 p 2

[Text] Despite all the slogans of the officials of the Islamic Republic, from Ayatollah Khomeini to minor officials, concerning the importance of the teaching profession and the value of teachers to the society in recent years, the least desirable profession in Iranian society today is that of a teacher.

Ebrahim Heydari, director of the headquarters for honoring teachers, wrote in a letter to the minister of education that if those who seek a profession have a choice, being a teacher is not one of them. For this reason, only the weakest of high school and college graduates, those who cannot find a job elsewhere, apply to the Ministry of Education for teaching positions.

This person also wrote to the minister of education: Lack of attention on your part and on the part of the society at large to the teaching profession has given elementary and high school teachers a complex.

In addition to the fact that they have the lowest incomes compared to their classmates, they do not enjoy any other benefits, such as a good cooperative and institutional housing. The teacher training schools have difficulty filling their classes, and, in recent years, precisely 1,000 students in these schools have left school before graduation and receiving degrees.

As is discussed in the statements of the regime officials, on the basis of documented statistics and evidence, of the 22,000 teachers needed, only 18,000 have been found. What this data indicates is that, even with the severe unemployment that exists in the country, there are 4,000 positions available in the educational system for which no one will apply. In this letter, the writer questions why a cooperative fund, a hospital, or a teachers' club is not established for the 700,000 teachers.

The differences which exist between the teaching profession and other professions have clearly destroyed the morale of teachers. For example, an employee without a

high school diploma in a bank receives a salary in excess of 90,000 rials, but a person with a master's degree in mathematics in the Ministry of Education receives no more than 60,000 rials. Nowadays, teachers are unable to maintain a good life style with the salaries that they receive. The statistics on those who have passed university entrance examinations indicate that 83 percent of young people from Tehran who begin higher education reside in north Tehran, on Takht-e Jamshid Street and beyond, which is an area in which a teacher cannot afford to buy or rent a house.

In recent years, especially since the revolution, efforts have been made to place all the blame for the lack of attention to teachers on the shoulders of the officials in power before the revolution. But since the revolution, as well, no positive step has been taken for elementary and high school teachers.

On the other hand, the decline in the academic standards of schools has resulted in complaints from university professors, who are the teachers of the young people after high school.

The reason for the drop in academic standards of schools is also the appointment of the least qualified graduates to teaching positions, because those who are educated enough enter other professions. We know many educated, qualified teachers who have attempted to open such enterprises as a store selling dairy products or a fruit shop, and who believe that teaching provides neither sufficient income nor prestige.

10000

Arrest of Armed Fada'iyān-e Khalq Members Reported

46400131b London KEYHAN in Persian
12 May 88 p 12

[Text] Last week the Khorasan Islamic Revolutionary Komiteh claimed to have discovered in that province an important network of armed Fada'iyān-e Khalq guerillas and Tudeh Party members, and to have captured at least 200 of the armed guerillas.

A spokesman for the Khorasan Islamic Revolutionary Komiteh said that Hushyar Khaleqi, a well-known Tudeh Party member from Afghanistan, entered Khorasan secretly with a quantity of arms and explosives, but he was immediately recognized upon entering Iran and his movements placed under surveillance.

The above spokesman claimed that Khaleqi's mission was to lead a group of trained individuals from the Tudeh Party and the Fada'iyān-e Khalq on an armed sabotage mission.

Evidently, Khorasan Islamic Revolutionary Komiteh officials were able to kill Khaleqi in a clash before he could carry out his mission. The komiteh spokesman claims that a large quantity of explosives, light weapons and ammunition was taken from the hiding place of Khaleqi and his cohorts.

In a separate statement published last week in Europe, the Tudeh Party and the Fada'iyān-e Khalq organization denied the claims of the Khorasan Islamic Revolutionary Komiteh spokesman, but at the same time they confirmed the arrest of a great many of their members and supporters in Mashhad and other Khorasan cities.

The Tudeh Party and the Fada'iyān-e Khalq organization claim that the account published by the Khorasan Islamic Revolutionary Komiteh spokesman is a complete lie. According to the Tudeh Party, the truth is that the regime's security agents are always uneasy about popular dissatisfaction and aversion to the Khomeyni regime, and that about four months ago they took measures to arrest and imprison freedom-seekers in the Province of Khorasan, and the result was the arrest of a great many supporters of the Tudeh Party and the Fada'iyān-e Khalq organization.

It is not yet clear which account—that of the spokesman for the Khorasan Islamic Revolutionary Komiteh or that of the Tudeh Party and the Fada'iyān-e Khalq organization—is closer to the truth.

It is true that spokesmen for the Islamic revolutionary komitehs in such central provinces as Khorasan and Sistan va Baluchestan have recently published statements about their brilliant operations discovering counterrevolutionary networks and smuggling rings and are trying to tell the people that they are fully successful in combatting the counterrevolution.

In many cases the statements published by the Islamic revolutionary komitehs are completely baseless, and in some cases they portray small successes as very large ones. However, the Tudeh Party and the Fada'iyān-e Khalq organization do not have a good record for telling the truth either.

Foreign journalists say that recently the Khad organization, the Afghan regime's espionage and security apparatus, and a number of fugitive Tudeh Party members serving that apparatus have developed a program of sabotage in Iran.

Secret elements of the Khad organization have been operating against the police and the Afghan mojahedin groups in Pakistan for some time, and it is not unlikely that they have taken steps to operate in Iran as well.

Officials of the Kabul government have said repeatedly that the Islamic Republic constantly sends saboteurs in the guise of Muslim revolutionaries to Afghanistan, and that these saboteurs promote disturbances and unrest.

Even so, the Tudeh Party's denial of having a military branch in Iran means that this party does not have a program for armed action in Iran, at least not at the present time.

The majority faction of the Fada'iyān-e Khalq, which is affiliated with the Tudeh Party, certainly has no such program.

The splinter group of the Fada'iyān-e Khalq, known as the minority faction, does not have friendly relations with the Tudeh Party. In its statements, it always claims to support armed action, but its policy differs from that of the Fada'iyān-e Khalq group that is affiliated with the Tudeh Party.

9310

PAKISTAN

Afghan Settlement Merely a Convenient Agreement Between Superpowers

46560036 Karachi JANG in Urdu 25 Apr 88 p 3

[Article by Manzoor Ahmad: "An Interesting Aspect of Afghan Issue"]

[Text] Political observers say that after the sudden death of Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri a superpower played a key role in making Mrs Indira Gandhi India's prime minister. This appointment was in the practical interest of the world politics of this superpower. The fact that a superpower played a significant role in ousting the Janata party before expiration of its term of office because it disregarded the wishes of the superpower and bringing Mrs Gandhi to power for a second time in the interim elections was a topic of discussion in international and official circles for a long time. Similarly a superpower took keen interest in dividing Pakistan. This fact has been specifically mentioned by the secretary of state of the superpower in his book of memoirs. A high ranking official of a superpower warned Pakistan's Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto that if he did not give up his plans of becoming a nuclear power then he would be made an example for the world.

In Iran the Mossadeq government was ousted at the instigation of a superpower. Later, the Shah of Iran became the victim of indifference to this superpower because according to the foreign policy of this superpower, the Shah's role had become useless. In the Philippines without the open help of this superpower Cory Aquino could not have come to power and in Afghanistan Sardar Daud wouldn't have lost his life and government if the superpower hadn't hinted to that effect. The rulers of developing countries are no more than chess pawns as far as the superpowers are concerned. As the saying goes even the wise and the learned are unaware of the moves of the chess-players.

These are the real facts of life in a world we are living and denying them is self-deception. In the context of short accounts of the events just mentioned it would not be difficult to understand at this time whether it will be possible for any armed or unarmed force to set up a government or a standard of its choice in the third world.

After the armed intervention of Soviet Union in Afghanistan in 1979 the bravery and valor with which the Afghan Mujahids defended and fought for their freedom will continue to draw applause and acclamation of the highest order of honor and valor. The coming Afghan generations will always have their pride and will glorify the performances of their elders in a befitting manner. However, no one can deny the fact that if the United States had not provided the Afghan Mujahids with high quality arms, the Afghans would have faced unsurmountable difficulties in the war against the Soviets.

Could the Vietnamese freedom fighters despite the leadership of Ho Chi Minh been able to win their war of without the large supply of Chinese and Soviet arms? There is no doubt the Vietnamese freedom fighters risked their lives. However, such action against a well armed force would not have been less than suicidal. The days of passive resistance are over. Now both parties engaged in a war have to be armed with weapons and only an imbalance of the deadliness of the arms could be considered a decisive factor. In World War II, the German nation surrendered to better and an abundance of U.S. arms. The Japanese despite their dexterity, expedience and equipment, were forced to lay down their arms after the United States attacked Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atomic bombs.

Even today, people who are considered authorities on military affairs say that the stinger rockets supplied by the United States changed the course of the war in Afghanistan and forced the Soviets to withdraw their forces from that country. In other words, where the United States failed to play a decisive political role, its supply of arms did. The Indo-Chinese war in 1962 and the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971 also proved the principle of arms superiority. Today every country in the third world, without heeding its resources, seeks to obtain the most deadly weapons from the West so as to narrow the balance of power gap between it and smaller and larger countries.

The superpowers do not give any importance to principles or regulations when it comes to protecting their interest. They consider the freedom and independence of smaller and weaker nations insignificant. In order to attack Libya, U.S. bombers and fighter planes fly from British bases and the British Government cannot say anything.

The current Iranian Government is established against the wishes of a superpower, the United States. In order to protect its interests in the Persian Gulf and avenge the disgrace of American hostages, the United States, not

only started a war between Iran and Iraq, but it also entered the Persian Gulf with all its superior naval forces and announced in clear and unambiguous terms that the new Iranian Government could pose a threat to U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf and that it was necessary to take advanced precautionary measures. U.S. naval ships and aircraft destroyed various Iranian targets and the United States announced that it was ready for further action.

Under these circumstances to think or show that a free and independent government could be established in Afghanistan which could reflect the wishes and desires of the Afghan people is wishful thinking. Soviet forces are being withdrawn from Afghanistan just to brighten the prospects of success of the upcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow. The Soviet Union has promised that before Reagan's term of office expires it will withdraw all its forces from Afghanistan so that Reagan may attain a high and enviable position in the United States and world history. If it is in the U.S. interest to continue the war in Afghanistan, until political changes take place in Iran, then despite the Geneva agreements, this war will continue and the Soviets will become a tool for the attainment of U.S. goals. If Moscow does not want peace to prevail in Afghanistan, even after the withdrawal of its forces from that country, then the United States will provide the Afghan Mujahids with arms and ammunitions in order to keep the war in Afghanistan going. The agreement reached between the United States and Soviet Union only provides for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The Geneva agreement does not specify that there should be ceasefire and that the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran return to their hearths and homes in Afghanistan.

It is difficult to understand the guarantee provided by the United States and Soviet Union. Moscow will continue to supply arms and ammunition to its allies and similarly the United States will continue to provide the Afghan Mujahids with arms. As a result, the civil war in Afghanistan will continue, blood will keep flowing and the people will continue to die unnatural deaths. Neither will there be peace in Afghanistan nor will the Afghan refugees be able to return to their towns and villages. The Geneva agreement does not state that ceasefire is necessary.

We cannot say that the Government of Pakistan did not think of the welfare and national dignity of its people by signing the agreement. Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, by refusing to sign the Geneva agreement on the scheduled date, that is 15 March, did his best to prove that Pakistan was not a U.S. satellite but a free and independent country. Nonetheless, the formation of an interim government, on which Pakistan insisted as a condition to the signing of the treaty, was not included in the agreement. Some people may think that for resolving critical issues at Geneva we did not have a foreign minister and that this responsibility was assigned to a minister of state. The foreign

ministers of Soviet Union and the United States arrived to sign as guarantors. However, we may ask how much of the advice, given by the Pakistani politicians who participated in the round table conference convened by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, was considered worth heeding. The decision about the U.S. role and the performance of the Afghan Mujahids was made by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq before the civil government was formed. Even now from the way General Mohammad Ziaul Haq is issuing decisions about the U.S. role and the performance of Afghan Mujahids shows that he has the last word or that there is complete agreement and harmony between Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and the President on this matter. The statement issued by President Ziaul Haq on the Afghanistan problem after the signing of the Geneva agreement indicates that the president believes that the war in Afghanistan will continue and that the Afghan Mujahids and the Afghan refugees will not be able to return to their country and that Pakistan will maintain its position in this war. Every effort will be made to avoid the consequences of the war and the consequences that are not possible to avoid will be borne cheerfully. The Iranian Government did not even bother to express its views on the agreement, even though two million Afghan refugees live there. Two dangers are self-evident. First Soviet Union considered the Durand Line as an established issue under international law. But the Afghan Government has not been acknowledging it as a settled issue due to which the scope of war could be widened. Secondly with the withdrawal of the Soviet soldiers the Indian interest in Afghanistan will increase. Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, president of Tehrik-e Istiqlal, went so far as to say that the Afghan Government could even ask India for military aid. However difficult it may be, the Indian reaction will have to be faced. But the worst tragedy is that despite all these possible dangers and risks, the decision to establish a government in Afghanistan, will be made by both the United States and the Soviet Union, based on their mutual interest. When this decision is made for Afghanistan, neither the United States nor the Soviet Union will take into consideration the interests of Pakistan. The Afghan people, whether they support the Soviet Union or the Afghan Mujahids, will not be able to do anything other than express their regrets.

9315/9604

New Chief Minister of Sind Urged To Restore Peace

46560035b Karachi AMN in Urdu 19 Apr 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Let the Establishment of Peace Remain the First Priority"]

[Text] The new chief minister of Sind, Mr Akhtar Ali Qazi, as he took the oath of office, announced that the establishment of peace in Sind would be his first priority. Since then, on several occasions, he has expressed his views about vital issues. For example, he has stressed the

need of increasing the pace of development projects. While addressing the secretaries and high officials of the Sind government, he imposed a ban on accepting the "rasai." "Rasai" refers to the gifts presented to the touring officials by their subordinates. This is a distorted form of the curse "dali" [offering] introduced during the British rule. The subordinates and the chiefs of the region used to present the "dali" to their British rulers. It included high quality wine, sweets, gifts, garments, fruit and flowers. It is surprising that the present era's "black English" officers have maintained the tradition of "dali" in the form of "rasai." This, in fact, is a form of bribe which these officials receive with the belief that they are entitled to it.

There are, however, numerous such problems in Sind that demand urgent attention. But, if an effort is made to work on all those issues simultaneously, it is possible that not a single issue will be resolved. The preferred method, therefore, is to deal with each of them individually, so that each issue could be resolved in an effective manner. Now the first question is which one of the issues would be granted the topmost priority.

The establishment of peace beyond doubt is the first priority, and the chief minister in fact expressed it as the innermost desire of his heart. Under the circumstances prevailing in the province, this is felt to be our immediate need. This is so delicate and serious an issue that nothing else can have preference over it.

The new chief minister has emphasized the need for speeding up the pace of development projects. The question here is why the speed of the development projects became slow to begin with? This is quite an old issue. Development has had complications right from the start, the cause of which is the dishonesty of the bureaucracy. Whether it is an individual project or a project under any 5-year plan, never has it been the case in Pakistan that those projects have been completed on target. When the expenditures for a project are allocated, neither the likely nor the unexpected necessities are taken into account. The basic foundation of these projects therefore is wrong. One-third of the amount to be spent on a project is either embezzled or misappropriated, with the consequence that the project's expenses by far exceed the remainder of the allocation. The pace of projects remains slow so that the dishonest bureaucracy may think of ways to usurp government money. From this the problem in this regard is so extensive that it could take a considerable length of time to solve it.

As far as "rasai" or "dali" is concerned, that too is a form of bribe. The program to eradicate this evil should be a part of the prevention of dishonest practices. The dishonest officials discover various ways of making any effort to prevent corruption. It is possible therefore that the provincial government may also need to introduce some legislation to end evils like "rasai" or "dali." As far as the chief minister's proposal to prosecute dishonest officials in the open court is concerned, it illustrates a

very good intention. But such prosecutions have never been held in Pakistan. Moreover, there are so many loopholes in the laws that whenever such prosecutions were tried, the accused took the maximum advantage of the loopholes. In view of this fact, therefore, it is essential to review the concerned laws and correct them before carrying out such prosecutions. This also is a very time-consuming and lengthy task.

Under such circumstances, restoring law and order in the provinces is paramount. It is not a hidden fact that certain political parties also have been involved in the disruption of peace. During the past two weeks, an effort was made by some to worsen the conditions by randomly firing from moving vehicles in Orangi Town and Liaqatabad. The rulers are certainly well aware of the role played by the "Thunder Squad" and the "Club Force" belonging to a so-called religious party in the recent riots. Ever since the riots began in Karachi, the MQM volunteers several times seized armed motor-cyclists with masks over their faces and handed them over to the police. Some of them were found to be directly connected with that so-called religious organization, or they were paid for their services. We never saw those arrested either prosecuted or arraigned in the court.

The system of firing from cars is common in both the Shah Faisal Colony and its adjoining settlements. On one occasion, such incidents began soon after the curfew was lifted in the area. The curfew therefore was reimposed, and it remained in force for a long time. Now some other things happened in these areas. Certain bully types of people roam in these villages and rob the shopkeepers and vendors. This would inevitably worsen the situation. The partiality shown by the administration and police also plays a part in deteriorating the atmosphere. During the past 1 year to 1-1/2 years, this partiality has clearly been proven from the events that have taken place. Despite the existence of clear examples, no action has ever been taken against the biased police and the officials who support the rioters during disturbances. The greatest complaint people have is why the police staff is being recruited from outside when persons capable of being employed in the police are available in the province itself.

In view of all said above, it is essential that the new chief minister give top priority to the establishment of peace in the province. After analyzing the whole situation, he should remove the causes that are a source of endangering the peace and stability of the province.

9779/9274

NPP Chairmaan Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi
Interviewed

46560033 Islamabad HURMAT in Urdu
7-13 Apr 88 pp 8-11

[Interview with Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi by Asif Bhalli]

[Text] [Question] According to some circles, East Pakistan-like conditions currently prevail in Sind. Organizations like Jai Sind and Sindi Baloch Pashtoon Front have

given up their own movements and have openly started a struggle for break up of Sind from Pakistan. In your opinion, who is responsible for these conditions in Sind. Which are the forces that have brought about this deterioration in the situation?

[Answer] Responsibility for bringing Sind to the present juncture falls on the martial law and the present government. Peace and tranquillity of the country was ruined during the time of martial law. Incidents of dacoity and abduction are the creations of martial law government. We never knew before the kind of conditions in which in broad day light human beings can be abducted so easily. These conditions were deliberately engineered during the martial law times so that the Sind people may be kept absorbed in fear of their property and life and no movement for a change in government may start there. When in 1985 partyless elections were held people participated in the elections despite the boycott of political parties only with the hope that perhaps this way they might escape the problems caused by the martial law. But this did not happen. Instead corruption and misconduct have increased. There has been a rise in incidents of murder, abduction and dacoity. Country's peace and tranquillity lies in ruins. That is why I consider the present government to be a continuation of the martial law government. Especially because of the unsatisfactory performance of the Sind government, we have to face severe hardships. It is my contention that in the entire history of Sind there will never be a ruler who is more incompetent and whose conduct is worse than that of the present rulers of province. The basic reason why you see more corruption in Sind than in other provinces is that there the people in responsible positions are themselves not clean. This corruption requires a very major operation but how can the people whose own hands are not clean perform this operation on corruption. It is because of these conditions that the separatist movements have started their operations. Hatred against Pakistan is being inspired in the hearts of the masses who are sick of their problems and who are despondent about their future. There is no doubt that attempts are afoot to create East Pakistan-like conditions in Sind province and the patriotic parties have to fight on two fronts. We fight with the government on behalf of the masses and we fight against the separatist forces for the sake of Pakistan. Here I must say that in order to bring under control the linguistic and regional movements, it is necessary to remove the feeling of deprivation that is found among the Sindi masses. Valid complaints of the people there should be dealt with and their rights should be safeguarded on the basis of equality.

[Question] What is your party's practical program for solving problems of Sind?

[Answer] We have offered a program of justice, democracy and respectability. Problems of Sind or any other province can be solved on the basis of justice and democracy only. If we are permitted to come into power

you will find that under our rule the blessings of justice and democracy will reach every citizen and instead of merely sloganeering we will also work to implement our party's program.

[Question] You have been associated with the People's Party for a long time and this former party of yours also ruled Pakistan for 5-6 years. In your opinion, during its time how far did your party act on its manifestoes?

[Answer] People's Party did not fully implement its program. That is why it became the object of people's enmity. Against its government there ran a country wide movement which was effective and successful to a large degree. I too share the blame for the failure of People's Party to act on its programs and while acknowledging this responsibility I now promise that the National People's Party will act on its programs. We have learnt a lesson from the bitter experiences of the past and therefore we cannot even think of committing disloyalty to the masses.

[Question] Could you explain your party's economic program?

[Answer] We want to make the country a democratic state. We talk of economic progress for the country as a whole. Under our program there will be an old age pension. Care of widows and orphans will be the government's responsibility. Arrangements will be made for free education. Education will be compulsory till the primary level so that people may get education and thus take part in the struggle to solve their economic problems. The homeless will be given at least a one room house. An unemployment allowance is also included in our program.

[Question] You have spoken of homes for the homeless. How far are you satisfied with the way the present government is implementing this program?

[Answer] You say that the present government is distributing plots among the homeless. My submission is that there is no security for the life, property and honor of even those who have got homes.

[Question] In the recent municipal elections, pro ruling party candidates have scored a clear majority. In your opinion, have not the people thus given a full vote of confidence to the government?

[Answer] On the one hand, the rulers say that the municipal elections have been held on non-party lines. On the other hand they claim that in these elections the ruling Muslim League has received a significant success. If the people did not cast their votes on party lines, then how can it be claimed that the people cast their votes in favor of the ruling party. When the government has not been able to hold municipal elections on party basis, then how can you say about it that the people have expressed confidence in it. Secondly I want to submit

that despite its pretense of partyless elections the government did not keep itself neutral in the elections. Moreover I want to submit that if in the local bodies elections Muslim League has succeeded with a clear majority, then why is it that in the elections of chairmen and vice chairmen of local bodies the democratic principle of secret vote has been rejected and the method of raising hands is being adopted.

It is my honest opinion that now party based elections to national and provincial assemblies should be held without any further delay. I bet that if a neutral agency holds fair elections in the country, the present ruling party will not be able to get even 25 percent of the national and provincial assembly seats.

[Question] What agency do you think will be better for holding such fair elections?

[Answer] I do not want that elections should be held under the supervision of the military or the judiciary. But my suggestion is that a committee should be formed out of those political parties which since July 5, 1977 to date have continuously struggled for the restoration of political and democratic institutions and which have made countless sacrifices for the sake of democracy.

[Question] Even though your party is no longer in the MRD, but in your capacity as a national level leader of the People's Party you have had a long association with the MRD. How do you view the role of MRD under the present conditions?

[Answer] MRD struggle cannot be overlooked. MRD has become part and parcel of the country's history. Generations to come cannot forget its services to the country's unity. MRD's leaders and workers faced guns bare handed and in order to save the future of the country, they did not hesitate from laying down their lives. It is true that following the imposition of the martial law this great alliance of political parties has become somewhat weak and as a result of regrettable actions by one or two parties there is some disarray in the ranks of the MRD. On the occasion of the All (?) Party Conference the People's Party tried to destroy the unity of MRD. Even now the People's Party people are working to do damage to the MRD. I am unable to understand why the People's Party, after obtaining power from the MRD, decided to harm this platform for restoration of democracy. It appears as though the People's Party has reconciled itself to accepting the present government till 1990 and it wants that there should not be left any political and democratic power which is capable of forcing the government into bowing down before the demand for elections. People's Party, for its part has fled the political field. Now, as part of a conspiracy it is also bent upon weakening the MRD. Meanwhile my heartfelt prayer is that MRD may flourish and it may continue its struggle against the government more forcefully than ever before.

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**Objections Raised To Proposed Appointment of
Yaqub Khan as Sind Governor**

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[Column "From Jumma Khan's Pen": "If General Yaqub Is Appointed Sind's Governor, It Could Be the Beginning of Military's 'Basic Democracies'"]

[Text] According to press reports, the appointment of a new governor is under consideration to replace Sind governor, Mr Ashraf Tabani. In this regard, the name of former foreign minister, Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, also is among the names of persons being mentioned for appointment as Sind governor.

President Gen Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have the authority to appoint a new governor through mutual consultation. It is also not essential that if a governor is doing a satisfactory job, he should not be relieved of his duties and a new governor should not be appointed. Such appointments are made in view of various strategies. It is not objectionable, therefore, if General Zia relieves governor Ashraf Tabani of his duties, demands his resignation, and appoints a new governor. He can appoint any person of his choice. However, Gen Yaqub's appointment could raise objections. He is a retired general. He was performing official duties in East Pakistan at the time of the fall of Dhaka. After the division of Pakistan, he was made an ambassador. Later on, Gen Zia appointed him as the foreign minister. This was a very significant and sensitive position. Gen Yaqub served in this capacity for many years, but he could not perform any extraordinary deed. A major cause for his failure was that instead of fulfilling his responsibilities as a politician, he remained a bureaucrat and an administrator. According to the democratic circles, he could not serve Pakistan as much as he served the USA. As a result of that, Pakistan lost respect among the non-aligned nations. Then, when there was a vacancy for the position of the director general of UNESCO, an institution of the United Nations. He became a candidate for the post without doing proper homework. At

this many non-aligned countries, especially the African countries, became more angry with him. When the election was about to be held, it became obvious that he would be defeated. But he did not give up. He received less votes than the other candidates. Finally, he had to withdraw his name. After that he lost the foreign ministry also. It is also a fact that he took no interest in resolving the Afghan issue honorably and expeditiously. He demonstrated an overly conciliatory altitude and adopted tactics whereby this conflict went on being prolonged. The purpose of this policy was to provide the maximum possible benefit to the USA.

Aside from this discussion, Gen Yaqub has been unable to demonstrate his excellent faculties in any position. The thing to ponder is why he is being appointed the governor of Sind. Gen Zia and Prime Minister Junejo call their Muslim League the ruling party also. In this democratic era, has our country become so unproductive that we can find no democrat to fill the position of the governor. Is the ruling Muslim League comprised of only retired civil and military officers? Like Gen Zia, Gen Yaqub is a symbol of martial law. His appointment as the governor of Sind would prove nothing except that the martial law continues even during the democratic rule of Prime Minister Junejo.

Or, is the idea being entertained that two provinces should have civil governors and two military? In Baluchistan, Gen Musa is already holding the governor's position. If Gen Yaqub is appointed in Sind, two former generals would hold the governorships of two provinces. The highest officer of the president in the federation is being held by a uniformed general, who, it is said, is connected with Punjab. In the North West Frontier Province a retired general, Mr Fazle Haq, has already started his campaign for the office of the chief minister. If he succeeds in his goal, then a "basic democracy" of the officers connected with the armed forces would start operating in the entire country.

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